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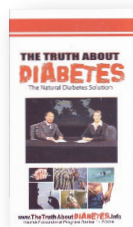
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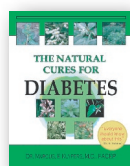
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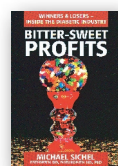
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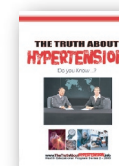
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Common Ground Publishing Corp.
HEAD OFFICE:
 204-4381 Fraser St.
 Vancouver, BC V5V 4G4 Canada

ISSN No. 0824-0698

Copies printed: 68,000

Over 250,000 readers per issue
 Survey shows 3 to 4 readers/copy.
 Annual subscription is \$60 (US\$50) for
 one year (12 issues). Single issues are
 \$6 (specify issue #). Payable by cheque,
 Visa, MasterCard, Interac or money order.

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100% owned and operated by Canadians.
 Published 12 times a year in Canada.

We acknowledge the financial support of the
 Government of Canada, through the Canada
 Magazine Fund, toward our editorial costs.

Publications Mail Agreement No.4001171
 Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to
 Circulation Dept.

204-4381 Fraser St.
 Vancouver, BC V5V 4G4

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-
 based inks.

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Interview with Charles Kelley

HABITAT

BY JOSEPH ROBERTS

Charles Kelly was appointed by the Government of Canada to the role of Commissioner General of the Secretariat for World Urban Forum 3 (WUF3), a UN Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT) event, hosted in Vancouver, June 19 to 23. Kelly was involved in the first UN HABITAT in 1976, as the executive assistant to the President of the UN Conference on Human Settlements.

Common Ground: What is important for people to know about the UN World Urban Forum 3? People seem to be confusing it with several other events in June.

Charles Kelly: WUF3 is a meeting of civil society. I distinguish that from many traditional UN conferences, which are government-to-government meetings. So, national governments are represented, but it's also state and local governments, and it takes place in particular cities. Then, more broadly at the civil society, the participants are planners, architects, civil engineers, developers and the private sector, in addition to the broad representatives of the non-government organizations.

Essentially, we're putting everybody under one roof. Citizens are coming together to discuss ideas with the doers in society – the city builders, more largely writ. Since we're not having a negotiation of policy, it's an opportunity to have discussions about putting ideas to action, to share what works, lessons learned, mistakes made and how to develop new net-

works and new processes.

JR: Thirty years has passed since Habitat '76, where a lot of wonderful people met and shared some great ideas. What has been accomplished since then, what's still to be done, and how have we done?

CK: It's a mixed record on the last 30 years. National governments met separately in '76 and that led to the establishment of UN Habitat. That took a decade. It started off as an agency under the UNEP (UN Environmental Program) in Nairobi. It was only after the Istanbul conference in '86 that UN Habitat became a full agency of the UN, with its own governing council.

There's no question there's been a lot of good policy work and a lot of activities. UN Habitat is not like UNEP or some of the other international agencies in that it doesn't have a big pot of money or administer large global programs. It tends to be more of an advisory body.

Part of the nature of "urban" is that national governments really don't do urban. The actual decision-making, by and large, really happens at local government levels, so the issues of water, sewage, housing and transportation – the broad mix of place-based decisions where people live in cities – tend to be local government decisions. There's somewhat of a disconnect between the national governments, as represented in the international environment, and the actual reality of how decisions get made in local urban environments.

Thirty years ago we thought the world population would be about an additional billion people now, as opposed to what turned out to be the actual case. The world population now is about six and a half billion people, and 2005 represents the first time in history where half the people in the world lived in urban spaces. Over the



last 30 years, while we've added over a billion and a half people, the challenge has been that they've disproportionately, through both migration and growth, moved into cities. At this stage, almost 20 percent of the world's population lives in abject poverty.

We'll add about another two billion people to the world's population in the next 45 years. The bulk

selves.

JR: What really inspires you about this event?

CK: I think it's the opportunity to bring the world to Vancouver. We live in one of the most advantaged environments and we don't see or think about the things we're not exposed to. If you look at the nature of the development in China, or cities like Shanghai, where they add 500,000 people a year, it's like they build a Winnipeg every year. There's a radically different model in a democratic society in India. It has equally tremendous problems of more and more people moving into cities, but it's a democracy. The country has put substantially more resources over the years into the hinterland.

Brazil has a different development model and a very different kind of federation, and there are radically different social and economic circumstances in Africa. It's important that there are different conversations amongst the developing nations. There's the kinds of discussions that occur in Europe, which is dealing with rebuilding a crumbling infrastructure, in some cases with a shrinking economy, and somewhat in North America.

Canada is a highly urbanized nation and 80 percent of our population lives in the cities, along with the northern band of the US. But our population is not growing in a significant way. In fact, to maintain our economic base we're going to have to bring more people in, so we have a totally different context of what we're dealing with and what the pressures are.

Your probability of success is based on the diversity of the audience. Beware of experts. Take a look at the wisdom of crowds. I think that's a guiding principle for what we're going to do at the World Urban Forum.

of that will be in cities. The question is how are we going to manage that? The decisions we're going to make over the next 25 to 30 years will really determine what this planet looks like, as we try to adjust to the rapid urbanization and increase in population growth.

JR: What causes the migration into the cities?

CK: Mostly it's survival. With population growth, people moving to cities is, by and large, an expression of hope. They're looking for jobs, for income. The cities are the engines of economic growth, where people can get an education and improve them-

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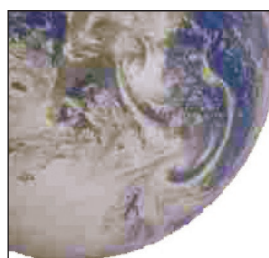
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The real message is the extent to which, while we all live in our separate communities, we've learned in 30 years that the reality is these things are interconnected. It's one planet. From an environmental perspective, decisions in China impact Canada. So we're related and no longer live in a world where we can say the consequences of massive coal-burning plants in Indonesia don't matter to us.

That brings us back to the artificial division in the early '70s when, in Stockholm, they separated the physical environment and created the UN environment program and then moved human settlements off. We separated the physical science from the human dimensions of settlements. I think we're trying to bring these things back together again. We must look at the physical environment in the context of the social and economic environments and integrate them now.

JR: The term civil society hasn't been used that much lately. It seems there's little time to be an involved citizen any more.

CK: It's true, but on the other hand, Vancouver, and recently Calgary, has been one of the communities over the past 30 years that's probably had a higher level of engagement in public participation in the urban landscape on a per capita basis than anywhere

in the world.

First of all, I don't think it's any mistake that the Liveable Region Plan was first drafted in 1976. Vancouver has evolved a set of methodologies with respect to how to have a long-range plan. It's spent almost the last 15 years finding a way to develop 30-year year plans, so our urban planning frameworks are 30-year horizons, which is really quite unique.

We also have 50 and 100-year plans, but the region, the GVRD, works inside of a set of planning and engagement guidelines, which has a 30-year horizon. Vancouver has established the Plus Thirty Network with 30 cities around the world sharing the development of 30-year plans. These are really important; if you want to start addressing some of the problems of urbanization, you need a longer-term vision. Infrastructure investments aren't three to five year investments. You don't make them in a single term of a municipal government.

The high level of public participation ensures that while political cycles may change, you can't change the vision of the infrastructure plans without a broad base of public consensus. Literally tens of thousands of people participated in Vancouver in the last iteration of the Liveable Region Plan.

Over the last year, Calgary has put

together a 30-year planning arrangement and directly engaged over 18,000 Calgarians in the process.

I think the strongest message to come out of the Habitat Jam, where we had 39,000 people participating in a three-day, 72-hour, internet-based event, was the need for people, who are most affected by the decisions in the communities in which they live, to be able to participate in those decisions.

That's one of the messages from Canada. I feel very proud to be a Canadian and about this event. Canada is raising the bar. This will be the first nation state that's been prepared to invest in this scale of civil society engagement, and we're doing it in an area where Canada has real expertise. Canada runs excellent cities. People want to live in Canadian cities. They're some of the most habitable cities in the world.

We can bring a lot to the world. We have the courage to deal with this in a way that's open and inclusive. We can show with confidence that we trust citizens not only of our own country but the world when confronted with issues by treating these things in a true democratic way. I think you'll find better decisions.

JR: There was such a critical mass of brilliance that changed people's lives during Habitat '76.

CK: I think it's really important

to do that again. The really important thing about Vancouver is after 30 years, it's time to reforge those networks. The world has come a long way in 30 years of network development from '76. Now there's an opportunity for a new generation, schooled in a new set of ideas in an environment where we have a better understanding of sustainability from the perspective of what it means to run things in an integrated way. We've also had a revolution in technology that can bring benefits. We need to infuse the best technology with the best minds – eager, committed people – to apply the principles of sustainability in a democratic open way in cities around the world.

What's required is a very significant paradigm shift. Vancouver is one of the few places in the world that has taken the concept of environmental sustainability and combined it with the economy and social issues, integrating them into a decision-making framework, which is an operating management principle in our region. You don't know how rare that is. I really believe that's the paradigm and the key.

There's this fabulous book by James Surowiecki called *The Wisdom of Crowds*. The interesting dimension is that you'll get a better solution if you mix the crowd. If you have the experts and the average person, it will



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Celebrities sell sickness

Perhaps we should be on the lookout for the newest mania: seeing disease mongering everywhere. – Dr. S. Nassir Ghaemi, assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and director, bipolar disorder research program at Cambridge Hospital.

BY ALAN CASSELS

There's a new mania and I've got it.
At least, I think I've got it.

I seem to have all the symptoms for someone whose mania is seeing diseases everywhere. It's like "all illness, all the time."

I've got "disease mongering mania." Call it DMM for short.

All around me I hear voices chanting the mantra, "You're sick, don't suffer in silence, see your doctor, get treatment. You're sick, don't suffer in..." etc.

These same voices seem to be coming from all kinds of unique places: television and magazine ads, the wife of a former prime minister, even from the pages of a medical journal as two psychiatrists battle it out.

Ironically, my current form of DMM seems to be largely emanating from the makers of powerful drugs for schizophrenia – a coincidence, that? – and they all seem to be saying the same thing: It may not be depression; it could be bipolar disorder."

That's the tag line hanging off one new ad campaign launched by a major pharmaceutical company, which is pushing a powerful anti-psychotic drug.

The three-page ad starts out on one page featuring a dark and grainy picture of an obviously depressed woman and the bold subtitle: "Sometimes there is another side to depression."

Turn the page and you find two pages of snapshots of her in her manic phase: talking too fast, sleeping less, spending out of control and flying off the handle, among other sins.

Not to be too snarky, but these traits could apply to lots of women on the planet – many women I know and especially my sisters. The tagline there reads: It could be bipolar disorder."

The ad steers you toward www.isitreallydepression.com/. The website offers a "mood questionnaire," which is, and I'm not making this up: "Easy, quick and confidential..." and it can also "... help you recognize behaviours (past or present) that may suggest bipolar disorder." Sheesh, I wish I were making that up.

Now what the heck is going on? Is this depression reincarnated as the



latest disease du jour – bipolar disorder?

Let me clear the air right now and say that genuine bipolar disorder can be truly debilitating and devastating for people who swing between extreme episodes of deep depression and euphoric mania.

There is no doubt in my mind that people with genuine bipolar need help: both psychological counseling and sometimes, medications.

But what is it with this garden variety bipolar being described by the marketers? Is it even ethical to describe the condition in terms so common that it'll draw in whole swaths of people who experience nothing more than normal ups and downs?

To see how bipolar is being sold to your doctor, check out www.recognizebipolar.com/. There, you'll learn: "At any time, 49 percent of people with bipolar disorder are undiagnosed."

The goal of this type of doctor-targeted ad is to make docs feel guilty. If you watch US television programs, you may also see an advertisement asking people to log onto www.bipolarawareness.com/, which takes them to the Bipolar Help Center, backed by Lilly, makers of another anti-psychot-

ic drug. This stuff is everywhere.

The problem is not just that the disease is being packaged for us at every turn with these "awareness raising" activities, but that the target drugs behind the bipolar marketing are – and I don't use these words flippantly – powerful, anti-psychotic treatments, capable of causing horrendous, sometimes irreversible, adverse effects in some people. These truly are drugs for truly sick people.

From the academic press comes some evidence of bipolar-mongering. Dr. David Healy, a Wales-based psychiatrist, recently wrote an essay entitled *The Latest Mania: Selling Bipolar Disorder*, which was published on the free, web-based Public Library of Science. (Google PLoS and Healy and you'll find it).

His analysis sparked a stunning rebuke from Dr. Ghaemi, who alleged that Dr. Healy must be suffering from DMM, and seeing made-up diseases everywhere.

The debate between the two academics spilled onto the pages of popular media, including the *Guardian Unlimited* in the UK. An April 28 headline read: "Glaxo Denies Pushing 'Lifestyle' Treatments."

The story featured GlaxoSmith-

Kline, the biggest drug company in Europe, saying it most categorically was not "... turning healthy people into patients by 'disease mongering' and pushing 'lifestyle' treatments for little-known ailments."

At the heart of the debate is the prevalence question. On one side, people like Dr. Ghaemi say there is a ton of empirical evidence showing that bipolar disorder has been highly under-diagnosed, (i.e.: lots of people running around who need treatment), while Healy maintains that bipolar is being vastly over-diagnosed. So much so that it is being "sold" as a disease to many people who may not even have it.

While the truth is multilayered, what we do know for sure is that "under-diagnosed" is the view favoured by the companies that hope to profit from our mania.

Just recently, Margaret Trudeau, ex-wife of the late Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Canada's former prime minister, jumped into the fray. At the recent launch of a fundraising event at an Ottawa hospital, she admitted to struggling with depression and bipolar disorder for much of her life.

At the press conference, Dr. Pierre Blier, chairman of mood disorders research at the University of Ottawa's Institute of Mental Health Research, provided a resonant soundbyte: "The

pivotal stone for treating the illness is medication."

Pharma's shareholders no doubt rejoiced with the coup of capturing such a high-profile Canadian as Maggie to deliver the necessary traction in the slippery minds of attention deficit-disordered journalists.

Is it a problem when celebrity magnets are used to highlight a condition? Not really, but what bothers me is that even as we feel for the plight of Ms. Trudeau, and others like her, few of us can see the fingerprints of Pharma all over this mongering...

Is it a problem when celebrity magnets are used to highlight a condition? Not really, but what bothers me is that even as we feel for the plight of Ms. Trudeau, and others like her, few of us can see the fingerprints of Pharma all over this mongering, as it busily colonizes the illnesses of celebrities to normalize the prescribing of Zyprexa,

Seroquel and Risperdal to people a lot less sick than she is.

The mania around bipolar disorder has been stalking me for some time now. Wendy Armstrong, one of Canada's leading consumer health activists with Alberta's consumer association, told me a story about a stakeholder consultation on drug patent protection she had attended in 1998.

When someone at the meeting noted that the association needed to rethink how much patent power it was giving the drug companies, a high-profile and highly respected member of Alberta's research community adamantly disagreed, saying, "Drug companies need expanded patent protection in order to come up with the next generation of anti-depressant drugs to deal with the worldwide pandemic of bipolar depression."

Wendy said she burst out laughing, thinking the guy was joking, but abruptly stopped when she realized he was dead serious. Remember, that was 1998. Big Pharma has had this one on the books for a long time.

Wendy suggested to him that maybe a revolution might be more effective and a whole lot cheaper. She now looks back on the whole episode with aplomb.

"Sheesh, I mean between the obesity epidemic and the bipolar thing,

it's lucky we can walk to the bathroom and back without losing our self esteem."

This is the one thing keeping me partly sane as I struggle with my disease mongering mania: that there are people out there like Wendy Armstrong and David Healy to keep me company.

And, please, dear reader, if you hear about or come across any "new" diseases that someone is trying to convince you that you are suffering from, please email me at alan@alancassels.com/.

We disease-mongering maniacs have to stick together. Because, after all, misery loves company.



*Alan Cassels is co-author of **Selling Sickness: How the World's Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies Are Turning Us All Into Patients,** and a drug policy*

*researcher at the University of Victoria. He is also the founder of **Media Doctor Canada** (www.mediadoctor.ca), which evaluates reporting of medical treatments in Canada's media.*



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Fine healthy dining

NUTRISPEAK • VESANTO MELINA MS, RD



Vesanto Melina and Cam Doré with sous-chef Jeremy McKinnon and server Myra Mahoney at Globe @ YVR, Fairmont Vancouver Hotel's restaurant at Vancouver International Airport.

Sparkling white soup bowls are placed before us, each with a cluster of exotic salad greens at its centre. Our server pours a creamy, green soup into our bowls from an elegant pitcher; the greens become a leafy island. Thus dinner begins: a spring pea velouté, garnished with a lemon-scented baby herb salad. The taste is an exquisite blend of sweet peas, spinach and shallots, the texture smooth.

From our table, we see planes arriving and departing for exotic locations. Some travellers at nearby tables wait between flights. At others, families and couples are recently reunited.

Our entrée is a ragout of organic kale buds and corn with Du Puy lentils, a spring mushroom fricassee, tomato chutney and sliced beets, arranged across our plates like a painting. We finish with a cardamom-scented, bittersweet chocolate dessert. Our vegan meal is low fat, cholesterol-free and suitable for those with allergies to dairy, eggs, fish, or seafood. Every mouthful is a delight.

We are exploring restaurant options for vegetarians, people with food sensitivities, those who need to lose weight, or people with health problems such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension or diabetes. The experience described above took place at the Globe @ YVR.

It can be daunting to dine out when one has health concerns or dietary restrictions. Yet many chefs rise to the occasion and prepare a delicious meal while taking these needs into account. It's now not unusual to see "Tell us about any special food needs" printed on a restaurant menu.

Some restaurants provide a list of all ingredients for their menu items, or the chef may come to the table to discuss requirements. It takes courage, and preparation, to develop trust in a particular restaurant, when one's reaction to a hidden ingredient could be anaphylaxis. Clear communication helps, perhaps in advance of your visit.

HEALTH

Tips for safe, healthy dining out:

Begin with an Internet research. Some restaurants post their menus on the Web.

Check sites dealing with allergies or vegetarian options for recommended restaurants in your geographical area and at travel destinations. Google "allergy restaurants" or visit www.veg dining.com/, www.happy cow.com/. Vegetarian restaurants offer meals without fish, shellfish, dairy, eggs and other animal products, plus gluten-free items.

Call restaurants at off-peak hours and speak with the chef, owner or manager. Explain your limitations and ask if, and how, the restaurant would handle them.

If allergies are life threatening, speak with the person who will actually prepare your food. You may ask, "Are fresh cutting boards and utensils used to avoid cross-contamination? Is the same oil used to fry various foods?"

Find local restaurants where the staff can get to know you.

Explain your situation. No restaurant wants to be responsible for making a customer ill.

Dine during off-peak hours, when you can have the full attention of the personnel.

When you have a good experience, express your appreciation and tip well.

Vesanto Melina is a registered dietitian and the author of seven food and nutrition classics, including *The Food Allergy Survival Guide* and *Becoming Vegetarian*. Her career in nutrition includes a prior role as staff dietitian in Dr. Dean Ornish's renowned heart disease reversal program. For personal consultations, call 604-882-6782 or email vesanto@nutrispeak.com www.nutrispeak.com

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Native plants

ORGANICS

ON THE GARDEN PATH • CAROLYN HERRIOT

Each month, Carolyn writes about what she is doing in the garden, with seed saving and soil building. She helps gardeners of all levels realize they can have the most healthy, productive and beautiful garden without resorting to harmful substances. That way, humans, pets, wildlife, plants and the myriad of soil-dwelling organisms all benefit.

Putting the right plant in the right place is the key to sustainable gardening. No plants are better adapted to an area than the native or indigenous plants that grow there. Having adapted perfectly to their native habitat, indigenous plants are both drought-tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases.

It's strange that we do not value the native plants that grow so successfully, a fact made apparent by their removal, often along with the topsoil, during property development. Urban gardeners, therefore, don't become familiar enough with the plants, which originally grew in their gardens.

However, attitudes toward native plants are changing, as we come to appreciate their value, beauty, diversity and suitability. If you have ever seen the flush of pink from a bank of kinnickinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) in spring, you know what a great groundcover it makes. With glossy, evergreen leaves, it spreads into a dense carpet, in either sun or shade. The best part is that kinnickinnick's flowers also attract butterflies and bees in spring, and in fall and winter, the red berries are an excellent food source for wildlife.

A North American native plant is one that existed in the region before European settlement. Not all wild plants are native. We can thank European settlers for introducing Queen Anne's lace, dandelion, Scotch broom, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry, which are all invasive and sometimes habitat-destroying.

Have you ever noticed the heady fragrance of the creamy-white flowers of the Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), which herald spring?

Did you know that Indian plum also produces clusters of plum-coloured berries in summer, which are surprisingly sweet to eat?

For a shrub that thrives in shade, try the evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), which also has attractive evergreen foliage and pink flowers, followed by edible berries. If it's fall colour you're after, plant high-bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*), which has stunning red leaves in fall,

along with orange-red fruit.

The greatest benefit of integrating native plants into a home landscape is their great value to wildlife. They provide habitat and forage – berries, seeds and nuts – for mammals and birds, and flowers that feed insects.

Native plants also attract hummingbirds to the garden year-round. Anna's hummingbirds (*Calypte anna*), which overwinter on southern Vancouver Island, lay two clutches a year, starting in February. They have been

Selecting the right native plant for your garden is important if you want it to thrive.

sighted in many places in BC, but nest mainly in Victoria, although there are a few in Nanaimo and Greater Vancouver. It is estimated that there are 500 breeding Anna's hummingbirds around Greater Victoria.

From March to April, hummingbirds are lured by the bright red flowers of the red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*); from April to July, it is the fragrance of twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*) and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) and the cerise-red colour of Pacific bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*); from July to October, the pink flowers and red pods of fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) keep them humming.

Selecting the right native plant for your garden is important if you want it to thrive. Right plant, right place means not planting a moisture-loving plant in a dry spot, or one that needs well-drained soil in a wet spot.

Initially, like any other introduction to your garden, you'll need to water native plants to establish them. Once established, they are low maintenance and do not require watering. Native plants thrive in native soils and do not require feeding, but they do benefit from a yearly application of leaf mulch and compost.

There are native plants for every garden. It's just a question of looking at them with new eyes and appreciating them for the perfectly adapted plants they are.

Excerpted from A Year on the Garden Path: A 52-Week Organic Gardening Guide by Carolyn Herriot. \$29.95. Earthfuture Publications, Victoria, BC. Available at Banyen Books, Duthie Books or at www.earthfuture.com/gardenpath

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There is no problem

THE POWER OF NOW • ECKHART TOLLE

When you are full of problems, there is no room for a solution. So whenever you can, create some space so you can find the life underneath your life situation.

Use your senses fully. Be where you are. Look around. Just look, don't interpret. See the light, shapes, colours and textures. Be aware of the silent presence of each thing. Listen to the sounds; don't judge them. Touch something, anything, and feel and acknowledge

its Being. Observe the rhythm of your breathing. Allow everything to be, within and without. Allow the “isness” of all things. Move deeply into the Now.

You are leaving behind the deadening world of mental abstraction, of time. You are getting out of the insane mind that drains you of life energy, just as it is slowly poisoning and destroying the Earth. You are awakening out of the dream of time into the present. It feels as if a heavy burden has been lifted.

“I feel clear . . . but my problems are still there waiting for me, aren't they? They haven't been solved. Am I not just temporarily evading them?”

If you found yourself in paradise, it wouldn't be long before your mind would say, “Yes, but . . .” Ultimately, this is not about solving your problems. It's about realizing that there are no problems, only situations. Problems are mind-made and need time to survive. They cannot survive in the actuality of the Now.

Focus your attention on the Now and tell me what problem you have at this moment.

I am not getting any answer because it is impossible to have a problem when your attention is fully in the Now. A situation that needs to be either dealt with or accepted, yes. Why make it into a problem? Isn't life challenging enough as it is? The mind unconsciously loves problems because they give you an identity of sorts. This is normal, and it is insane.

“Problem” means that you are dwelling on a situation mentally without there being a true intention or possibility of taking action now. You become so overwhelmed by your

life situation that you lose your sense of life, of Being.

When you create a problem, you create pain. All it takes is a simple choice: no matter what happens, I will create no more pain for myself. I will create no more problems. Although it is a simple choice, it is also very radical. You won't make that choice unless you are truly fed up with suffering. And you won't be able to go through with it unless you access the power of

the Now. If you create no more pain for yourself, then you create no more pain for others.

If you have ever been in a life-or-death situation, you know that it wasn't a problem. The mind didn't have time to fool around and make it into a problem.

In a true emergency, the mind

stops; you become totally present in the Now and something infinitely more powerful takes over. This is why there are many reports of ordinary people suddenly becoming capable of incredibly courageous deeds. In any emergency, either you survive or you don't. Either way, it is not a problem.

Some people get angry when they hear me say that problems are illusions. They have invested much time in a false sense of self. A great deal of what people say, think, or do is actually motivated by fear, which, of course, is always linked with a focus on the future. As there are no problems in the Now, there is no fear either.

Should a situation arise that you need to deal with now, your action will be clear and incisive if it arises out of present-moment awareness. It is also more likely to be effective. It will not be a reaction coming from the past conditioning of your mind, but an intuitive response to the situation. In other instances, when the time-bound mind would have reacted, you will find it more effective to do nothing. Just stay centred in the Now.

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We must make the choices that enable us to fulfill the deepest capacities of our real selves. —Thomas Merton

We create our lives through choice. Even if we have not chosen a particular event or outcome, we do choose the way in which we respond. If life is a canvas, choice is our paintbrush. True, our choices may be coloured by past conditioning or present beliefs, and we may be influenced by others' expectations or reactions. However, the decision to allow these influences is a choice in itself.

One might argue that some of those influences are unconscious, but to become conscious is also a choice. We have this one lifetime as the person we are, and it is up to us what we create for ourselves as we journey through it.

Some of the raw materials that we are given to work with are the specific characteristics of our lives and circumstances. Our intelligence, aptitudes and the physical and emotional environment in which we were raised may help or hinder us.

Once we reach adulthood, it is really our own choice as to how we interpret our background and circumstances. We may see them as a crutch, a springboard, or an excuse. Regardless of what may have happened in the past, we are both responsible and accountable for our future. We are making choices every day, both big and small, and they are the seeds of our future.

Choosing to honour one's soul, to know oneself, and being true to that self, will create a different life. If we remain unconscious, living to please or impress others, or remaining in the same unappealing job, relationship or geographical area just because it seems easier, we learn nothing.

One way to ascertain where we may be neglecting our power of choice is to look at any areas of our lives, about which we complain. Another way is to look at what we wish for or dream about. If we have not created the life we want, it may be time to make some choices.

Of course, it is not always easy to

make those choices. Fear of change is common. People may not like their present circumstances, but fear that if they make the change they might somehow end up with something worse. They also struggle with whether they are making the right choice.

This suggests they may not trust themselves or the universe.

Our intuition is a trustworthy guide and compass. If we feel drawn in a certain direction and we seem to

Our intuition is a trustworthy guide and compass. If we feel drawn in a certain direction and we seem to be getting an inner push to move that way, then we can assume we are being given some guidance... it may lead to the results we need.

be getting an inner push to move that way, then we can assume we are being given some guidance. This is not to say that following that guidance will lead to the results we desire, but it may lead to the results we need.

The journey of life is much more interesting when we co-create with

the universe. It is like a dance; sometimes we lead, and at other times we allow the universe to lead. If inner urgings indicate the universe is trying to lead, and if we stubbornly insist on leading, we may miss out on something delightful just ahead.

This is why choice is so important. This is also why conscious choice is critical. We must be conscious of what our choices are creating for us. We must also be conscious of what we may be denying ourselves if we choose to ignore our intuitive voice.

Developing the ability to tune into that intuitive guidance is something we all can do. We get intuitive messages all day long. It is like the print message that sometimes appears at the bottom of the television screen during a program. We can either read it or ignore it, but the message still runs.

Our intuitive messages are like signposts along the roadway. They give us ideas, options and truths. It is up to us to notice them, and decide to follow them, or not. That is what makes our lives either an endless, boring highway or a creative adventure. It's our choice.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and psychotherapist in private practice. For more articles and information about her books and CDs, visit www.gwen.ca (See display ad this issue.)

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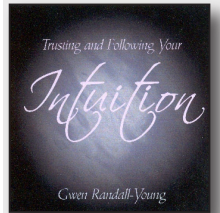



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Eagleridge Bluffs real agenda

BY NED JACOBS

A 35-minute bus ride from downtown Vancouver and a brisk 10-minute walk up Eagleridge Drive brought me to the Baden Powell Trail and the metropolitan area's last remaining arbutus forest. I was wandering unmarked paths among the mossy bluffs, taking close-ups of the fascinating trunks and limbs, when I spotted a pregnant doe nibbling arbutus leaves.

I stopped in my tracks, took a deep breath and beamed peaceful intentions her way. She looked directly at me, but to my surprise and delight held her ground. For half an hour, she

browsed and rested while I followed at a respectful distance. Eventually,

My years of involvement in civic affairs have taught me that when the things that governments tell us don't add up, motives and beneficiaries are being concealed.

the graceful creature vanished into a dell, thick with salal and swordferns.

Returning home on the city bus with keepsakes in my camera, I felt that I had spent an afternoon in paradise.

Not long afterward, I learned that BC Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon was planning to blast a four-lane, five-kilometre diversion of the Sea to Sky Highway through the heart of this irreplaceable wilderness. The purpose was to increase road safety and shorten the drive to Whistler by a minute or two, especially during the 2010 Olympics.

Inexplicably, Falcon was unwilling to consider various other options, including a tunnel, a one-lane addi-

tion to the existing highway, or simply improving safety on the existing road, where it bypasses the ferry terminal and town of Horseshoe Bay. Alternatives were supposedly too dangerous or too costly, yet no hard data was produced to back up those assertions.

Strange thing: Falcon's claims don't add up. His winding, overland route entails excessive grades at elevations frequently shrouded in fog and subject to black ice. The interchanges are confusing and require abrupt changes in speed. In fact, this diversion barely meets the province's

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minimum safety standards. Put together, it spells a death trap for travellers and for many animal species, such as the rare red-legged frog, and, of course, the Eagleridge deer.

The minister's claim that a tunnel would be more than twice as dangerous as a road is based on building a two-lane, two-way tunnel, which no-one is advocating. His cost estimates for a tunnel or third lane are unreliable, because contractors were not asked to quote on these options.

Falcon warned that a tunnel might "... drain the Larsen Creek wetlands." Perhaps he didn't know that an existing railroad tunnel even closer to this marvellous treed bog has done nothing of the sort. Nor does he want to



discuss the hideous scar his highway would leave on one of Greater Vancouver's most attractive landscapes, other than to suggest that the huge retaining walls could be painted green. Maybe that is what Premier Campbell means when he boasts of a green Olympics.

Many kilometres of the Sea to Sky will remain only two lanes wide. Why then is the province determined to spend hundreds of millions of dollars, waste priceless habitat and alienate thousands of citizens in order to add four lanes to one short stretch of a two-lane road, when a much less costly and less destructive alternative is the construction of a third lane at Horseshoe Bay. But Falcon shows no more willingness to compromise on Eagleridge Bluffs than on his contentious Gateway Program. He wastes our money on sham public consultations and threatens legal action against citizens who contradict his unsupported assertions, with bullying tactics more in keeping with dictatorship than democracy.

My years of involvement in civic affairs have taught me that when the things that governments tell us don't add up, motives and beneficiaries are being concealed. Question: what is it that only an overland route can provide? Answer: road access for million-dollar lots overlooking Horseshoe Bay. What did Kevin Falcon do before entering politics? Real estate. Who contributed most to his election campaign? Real estate developers. Who was the BC Liberal's biggest donor? The New Car Dealers Association.

Add this to the fact that the two least justifiable components of the provincial Gateway Program, the twinning of the Port Mann bridge and expansion of Highway 1, are primarily at the behest of the construction and development lobby. Now add patronage appointees to the BC Agricultural Land Commission. A distinct pattern emerges: this government's transportation policies are tailored to perpetuate car dependency and suburban sprawl.

The utterly unacceptable demise of our region's most rare, beautiful and accessible ecosystems is provoking citizens to walk in the footsteps of Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Jane Jacobs, Betty Krawczyk and countless others, who have committed civil disobedience in defence of their communities.

Come what may, I offer the Eagleridge doe as a symbol of the values we are striving to protect: beauty, diversity, fertility and integrity. They are vulnerable values, and they are essential.

Ned Jacobs is the son of author and activist Jane Jacobs, whose last civic act was a message of support for the Coalition to Save Eagleridge Bluffs. www.eagleridgebluffs.ca

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Protest songs make waves again

*"... Southern trees bear a strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black body swinging in the Southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees."*

BY GEOFF OLSON

Strange Fruit is one of the most influential songs of all time. It began as a poem in the late 1930s by Abel Meeropol, a schoolteacher troubled by a photograph of a lynched black man in the American south.

The poem, which Meeropol wrote under the pen name Lewis Allan, eventually came to the attention of a nightclub manager, who passed it on to 24-year-old jazz singer Billie Holiday. She crafted it into a song, but her record company refused to record it. Holiday had more success with Commodore Records, which released the song in 1939.

Few white Americans living today realize that the lynching of blacks was not an uncommon event in small towns of the American South in the early decades of the twentieth century. Holiday's song was a stark, contemporary rendering of something that polite, white Americans preferred to ignore.

Early performances of the song inflamed many a listener – not against lynching, but against the song itself. According to British music publica-

tion *Q magazine*, "Holiday was often abused, sometimes physically, by outraged nightclub patrons when she performed the song. Radio stations wouldn't play it, and *Time Magazine* described the song as 'a prime piece of musical propaganda.' Nevertheless, activists sent copies of the record to US congressmen, and the song became a rallying cry against racism.

Strange Fruit is not often thought of as a typical protest song. There is no fiery indignation, no call to action. The tone is mournful, even claustrophobic. Still performed by jazz singers, it has yet to become a museum piece. The adopted son of Abel Meeropol told America's PBS channel, "Until the last racist is dead, **Strange Fruit** is relevant." It succeeded, and still succeeds, by rendering no judgment. It's a record of bare witness.

The late jazz writer Leonard Feather once called the song "the first significant protest in words and music, the first unmutated cry against racism." *Q magazine* describes **Strange Fruit** as one of 10 songs that actually changed the world.

Holiday's vocal indictment against lethal racism was not the first American song of protest. **We Shall Overcome** was penned and sung during the American Civil War. Nearly a century later, it became a civil rights staple for singer Pete Seeger, and two months ago, Bruce Springsteen revived the anthem for his album of traditional folk music, **We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions**.

It's plain to see why the New Jersey native has gone the folkie route at this moment, when you hear a couplet from the third track, **Mrs. McGrath**: "All foreign wars, I do proclaim/Live on blood and a mother's pain." The inclusion of this eighteenth century Irish ballad on Springsteen's album underscores the fact that the most memorable protest songs are as timeless as their black wells of inspiration.

Of course, protest music is inevitably associated with the sixties. It's easy to over-romanticize a decade that witnessed an immense chaos of self-exploration, self-indulgence and – selflessness. But no one can deny

that great tunes were part of the mix.

The singer-songwriter was one of the chief architects of the sixties' Manhattan Project, a psychosocial bomb meant to upset apple carts and flatten hierarchies. A generation's naive over-estimation of its transformative power didn't negate its catalogue of social, intellectual and artistic successes. At minimum, we still have the music.

After protest music's high water mark of the sixties, the tidal flats of seventies' disco, eighties' synthpop and nineties' grunge had many activists wondering if the ship of musical dissent had sailed for good. With the war in Vietnam over, the targets were no longer quite so obvious or inspiring. Singer-songwriter grievances against "the man" became déclassé.

The vacuum was filled somewhat by big-money, musical benefits, which consistently bred overblown ballads about international togetherness. The fire had gone, and the embers threatened to spark little more than superstar sing-a-longs.

But as Bob Dylan said, "The times



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they are a-changin'." With the advent of a new millennium, protest music's death rattle has turned out to be more like an extended clearing of the throat. In the age of peak oil, ecological breakdown and reptile-brain politics, agitating tunes are on the upswing.

It's been a bit of a wait. In the wake of 9/11, efforts were made to contain any sentiments straying from the approved script of "Islamofascist" terrorists. Comic Bill Maher was the first sacrifice to the Moloch of consensus opinion.

US media behemoth Clear Channel Communications, which owns 1,200 radio stations in the US, issued a post-9/11 list of prescribed popular songs, which was distributed by the independent newsletter *Hits Daily Double*. Denying a rumour that this was a list of songs to be banned, John Hogan, president of Clear Channel, said that the list was only a suggestion, and "never a policy or a directive."

Early performances of Strange Fruit inflamed many a listener... According to the British music publication Q magazine, "Billie Holiday was often abused, sometimes physically, by outraged nightclub patrons when she performed the song."

The stated rationale – sensitivity for a republic grieving from the events of 9/11 – was partly believable, owing to the typically conservative nature of large, business organizations. That would explain why *Leaving on a Jet Plane* and *Another One Bites the Dust* made the grade.

But why the inclusion of all songs by activist band *Rage Against the Machine*, and John Lennon's song of peace *Imagine*? Some commentators suspect that Clear Channel, a major donor to the Republican Party, in preparation for hearings on corporate monopolies in broadcasting, was doing everything it could to make its loyalties known to the Republican-controlled legislative and executive branch.

"The day that changed everything" certainly changed the tone and direction of popular music for a time, with few artists vocalizing anything off-key in the beltway chorus of vengeance. Artists who stirred things up, whether in recordings or through their remarks, discovered themselves the target of well-organized opposition. The Dixie Chicks' slights against Bush resulted in a nationwide cam-

paign against them. It later came to light that this was no real grassroots campaign; Clear Channel-owned radio stations had organized bonfires of Dixie Chicks albums all around the country.

In 2004, aging punk priestess Patti Smith released her album *Trampin'* with its 12-minute *sturm und drung* track, *Radio Baghdad*. Smith excoriated the Pentagon's "shock and awe" triumphalism, while celebrating the contribution of Iraqis to world civilization. In spite of a killer riff, that was enough to make it radioactively, radio-unfriendly. The tune sank along with the album.

Yet Green Day's commercially successful post-punk 2004 effort, *American Idiot*, with its condemnation of a nation's "redneck agenda," turned out to be a harbinger of things to come.

In recent months, US artists have been emboldened by the unholy confluence of bad governance: not just the coalition's three-year clusterfuck in Mess o' Potamia, and the abandonment of US veterans suffering from health problems from three successive wars, but also the unconscionable, post-Katrina failure of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in New Orleans, and the continuing erosion of civil liberties under a regime of unrestricted personal surveillance. For US artists and performers, it's now a national embarrassment of riches.

Moby recently joined REM's Michael Stipe for an antiwar *Bring 'Em Home Now!* concert, and the Dixie Chicks are back in anti-Bush activist mode, with their new single, *Not Ready to Make Nice*.

Pearl Jam's pulling no punches on its eponymously titled album, with tracks like *Army Reservist* and *Worldwide Suicide*. In *Marker in the Sand*, singer Eddie Vedder wails, "There is a sickness, a sickness coming over me/ Like watching freedom being sucked straight out to sea."

Some of the most bilious protest music has come from African-American artists, who've been registering their social disenchantment for decades in rap and hip-hop. Used to seeing their own people enlisted as cannon fodder in foreign campaigns, Katrina confirmed their worst suspicions about the expendability of their poor.

Kanye West, famous for his statement on national television – "George Bush doesn't care about black people" – released a CD in 2005 with the track *Crack Music*. If anyone's still got questions about Saddam Hussein's supposed chemical weapons stash, West notes, "George Bush got the answer."

Old, white warhorses are also rising to the occasion, knocking off tunes that aren't likely to make it to the presidential iPod.

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Kathryn Shaw on *Measure for Measure*

A contemporary take on abuse of power



Karen Rae and Ian Butcher as Isabella and Angelo in *Measure for Measure*.
Photo: David Cooper.

BY JOSEPH ROBERTS

Common Ground: You are directing Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* at Bard on the Beach this year. What do you feel Shakespeare wanted to communicate with this play?

Kathryn Shaw: That's an interesting question, which has been hotly debated over the centuries. It's considered a "problem play," a play that doesn't come up with easy answers, where you're not easily satisfied at the end. It also bridges different classifications.

Although in the first folio the play is listed as a comedy, it's hardly considered a laugh-riot comedy. It gets the comedic designation primarily because people supposedly get married off in the end, which is one of the classic delineations for comedy vs. other genres. It doesn't really fit there though, partly because at the end of the play, although these people are sort of married off, Isabella is proposed to twice by the Duke and doesn't accept him as Shakespeare has written it. So that's left it wide open to interpretation about what's actually happening at the end. Does she accept or not? Is she forced to accept? All these issues arise.

Then there's another couple: Angelo has abused his power the most

blatantly, and the one who made the indecent proposition to Isabella that if she'll sleep with him, he'll allow her brother to live. She's a novitiate about to enter the nunnery, and her brother has been condemned through a law that's been dredged up about fornication outside of marriage being punishable by death. In fact, Angelo asks her to do the very thing for which he has condemned her brother to death.

We find out later that Angelo, who's been put in charge – he is considered a paragon of decency and uprightness in the state – has not only made this indecent proposal to Isabella, but, in fact, five years before, he left another woman, who he was contracted to marry, because her dowry was lost when her brother drowned with it at sea. Then he spread rumours that he left her because she was unchaste and unworthy of him. So we have this rather despicable character, who has a very high position in society. In my version of the play, he's at the top of the military chain.

At the end, there's a "bed trick," which happens in some plays, and he is married off to the woman he was originally engaged to, in whom, of course, he has absolutely no interest.

And she is now married to this man, who clearly has all these flaws. You can hardly consider that a happy ending.

That's why it's a problem play; it's called a comedy, but, in fact, it doesn't end happily. Christopher Gaze, the artistic director, chose the play because it's very powerful. It brings up lots of important issues and had only been performed at Bard on the Beach once before.

CG: How do you see *Measure for Measure* relating to the current abuse of power in the world?

KS: I think it has a very strong relationship. I've set this play in the 1930s. I wanted something that was contemporary enough that we could make associations with what's going on now. Basically, Angelo's a military man who abuses his power. He picks out laws, saying he's going to do things in the name of public good, which, to me, has a resonance with what's happening in the US particularly, and to some degree in Canada.

In the name of the public good, we're taking away people's rights – inspiring people to fear in the name of saving us from terrorism. I'm not convinced these things are necessary, at least to the degree to which they're being enforced. So that's a correlation between this play and what's happening in the world today. Then there's the ongoing abuse of women, using them for unsupportable ends over the centuries. There's a parallel there with the play, and it seems to be continuing today.

CG: Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, recently spoke in Vancouver. She is now protesting the war. Her son signed up on the promise that he'd be put into the chaplain service and wouldn't have to fight. Our current new federal Conservative government seems to be putting more energy into supporting the war in Afghanistan than into childcare at home.

There are so many instances of the abuse of power here, with more than we know going on behind the scenes, affecting people of all strata. There is so much lying to the very people who are asking for honesty from their leaders.

KS: I think that's very much what happens in *Measure for Measure*. Angelo is considered a model of righteousness and morally pure, and he turns out to be completely the opposite: an avaricious, lustful, deceitful human being who will take advantage of anybody and anything in order to get what he wants.

Some of the Duke's actions are

pretty questionable as well. He's not as obvious as Angelo, but he's running around dressed up as a friar. He does some unforgivable things in my opinion. For example, behind the scenes he saves Isabella's brother but substitutes someone else's head instead. But he doesn't tell Isabella her brother is still alive; he lets her go on thinking he's dead.

CG: Is it like *The Da Vinci Code*, where actors appear to be one thing, when, in fact, they're giving a very different message? It's very radical and heretical, but it's cloaked in the trappings of the church or the state. Would you say there's some of that going on here?

KS: Oh, absolutely. Isabella would not go along with the things the Duke suggests if he were not posing as a friar. In the hierarchy of the church, the friar is higher than she is. She isn't even a full-fledged nun yet. So she's looking to him for direction and assumes he's not spiritually going to lead her astray, even though that's exactly what he does, because he has a completely different agenda. He does say, "Judge as you expect to be judged," but...

CG: When was the play written?

KS: 1604.

CG: That's after the slaughter of the Cathars in the Languedoc when the Catholic Church hired Polish missionaries to go through Southern France and kill the competing so-called good Christians. The famous quote from the Polish military person, a proxy hired to do the dirty work of the rich people, who happened to be the Vatican at that time, when he came to a village and said, "How will we tell the true Catholics from the heretics?" The reply was, "Slaughter

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Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival 2006 Forum: Shakespeare and the Abuse of Power

Monday, July 10, 7pm

Bard maistage tent, Vanier Park

Hosted by Christopher Gaze,

artistic director

Panelists include:

Paul Budra: Simon Fraser University

Dean Paul Gibson, director,

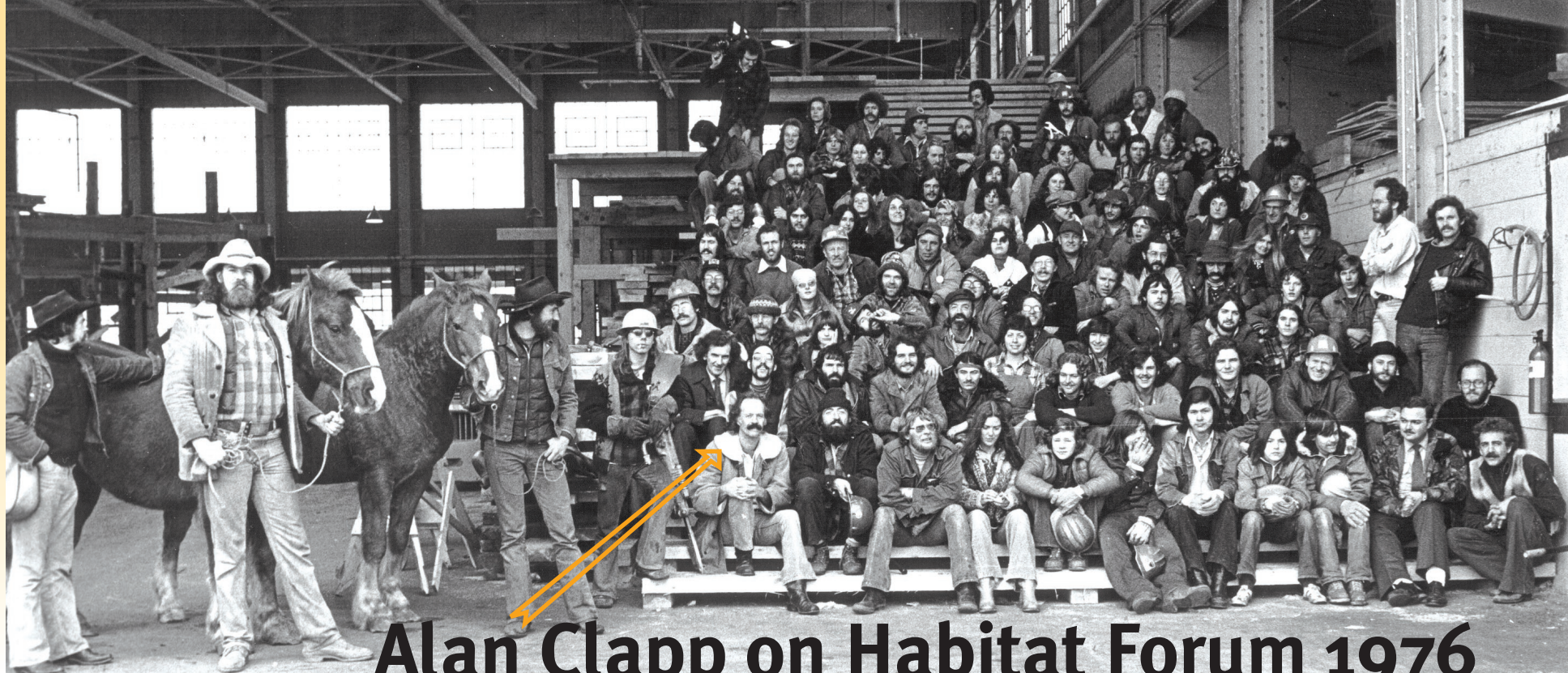
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Kathryn Shaw, director, ***Measure for Measure***

Mary Hartman, Bard on the Beach education consultant

Discussion will focus on the ways various characters in the current season's plays use and abuse their power.

Sponsored by **Common Ground**.



Alan Clapp on Habitat Forum 1976

In 1976, Alan Clapp was inspired to create Habitat Forum, a grassroots gathering of people who were passionate about creating communities and cities that fostered a sense of belonging and, at the same time, honoured the environment. Habitat Forum, which took place at Jericho Beach in Vancouver, ran alongside the UN Conference on Human Settlements, which, in contrast, was hosted at various downtown hotels. Clapp, with the help of artists and thousands of volunteers, created outdoor amphitheatres, using beach logs. Thirty years later, Clapp, whose DVD documents Habitat Forum 1976, looks back at the experience and talks about the World Urban Forum taking place in Vancouver this month.

BY JOSEPH ROBERTS

JR: What inspired you to create Habitat Forum in the old Jericho Beach seaplane hangars?

AC: I was working on a project to convert Canada Woodpipe at the bottom of Richards Street. It was a beautiful sawmill that made wooden pipes and water tanks that you used to see on the top of buildings, and it was being taken apart. CPR's Marathon Realty asked me to create something out of that space, which I was busy doing. That's basically what Granville Island was – that's where the idea for Granville Island came from.

Terry Tanner, the architect working with me, told me the UN conference was coming to Vancouver and I thought that was incredible. I've always loved Jericho, the five hangars. I'd done a number of different kinds of projects there like Greenpeace send-offs and taping of sports car races. So I really wanted to turn that into a free convention an ordinary person could go to, and I have a lot of good friends, who are very creative people, and that's what we did.

Common Ground: I see pictures on your wall of some incredible people. Who really stands out for you from Habitat '76?

AC: Well, that's hard. In the building of it, Bill Reid and Evelyn Roth. Painters and sculptors whose names I've forgotten. Michael Malcom and Chris Blades. So many people.

One of the conditions that the government put on the funding for Habitat Forum was that I had to use unemployed people. That wasn't a big problem because most of the people I know and have worked with are what

you'd call "unemployed." They're artists and craftspeople, who aren't what we'd call conventionally employed anyway. So it was a nucleus of some of Vancouver's most incredible artists. They had to stay within the parameters of what we were building – no plastic, just wood. They couldn't come in and just set up their own little trip. It was to do that overall feel, which we accomplished. I was very proud of it.

JR: In taking a look at some of the artists, there were some incredible banners produced.

AC: Well, of course there was Evelyn Roth, who was responsible for putting together the team that created all those beautiful banners, especially the one in Hangar Five, the plenary one, that covered the whole ceiling. It had a Bill Reid design on it. It was incredible, just beautiful. There was also Karen Hathnight and the lady who did all the batiks.

JR: I think the best way for people who weren't there to have an experience of it would be to get a copy of your DVD documentary *Revisit Habitat Forum: the 1976 UN Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver*. This is something we should be really proud of. It happened in Vancouver. I've watched the documentary and it's amazing.

The conference was about human settlements and here we are 30 years later. What does the report card look like? How have we done: the commitments and the conversations, the government agreements? I'd love to see a real debriefing about the last thirty 30 years and a reckoning of what we need to be doing to make this planet

more sustainable.

AC: I wish I could answer that question. Reading the news, it looks like we still have all the same problems. I think one of the difficulties with these conferences, including the new one Habitat 3 is that it gives people a false sense that something is being done. It's just not true. The conference happening here is really heavily regulated by the federal government and the UN. There's little input from the ordinary Joe Blow.

JR: Which speakers had a big impact on you back in 1976?

AC: Well, Mother Teresa for instance. People were just in awe of her. She stood in the plenary hall, which held about 2,000 people, and she had about 2,500 in there. Buckminster Fuller was another. Pierre Trudeau and his wife were very active; the former prime minister visited the site twice and attended the conference. There was also Barbara Ward and Margaret Mead.

There were such amazing numbers of people and incredible films and videos that half the people didn't see. We couldn't find everything we recorded in our mobile with Gene Lawrence, but I understand they've been found and will be converted to disk from 3/4" tape. We also recorded every speech and I have a lot of those tapes. We're going to use some of them when we do an anniversary of the Forum.

JR: I want to thank you personally Alan for inspiring me. That conference woke me up to being a global citizen.

AC: You're not alone. There are

people who belong to the '76 Club, who went through a change, either in their attitude or in their personality, as a result of Habitat Forum.

JR: The Peace Forum encountered some speed bumps.

AC: That's no different than Habitat Forum along the way. The City of Vancouver – Art Phillips, and May Brown of the parks board didn't want it to take place because they said the PLO would come in and blow up the city, or whatever their paranoia was about that. The Forum was successful because Dave Barrett and the NDP were in power at the time and Davey really got behind the conference. He got us the lease for the land at Jericho, gave us a sawmill to cut our own wood and gave us a log salvage license to pull logs off the beach to create all the incredible things we made at the Forum. They were very supportive and it happened because of them.

When Bill Bennett came in, he continued to support the event. He got us the liability insurance and gave us \$50,000 to make a film about Habitat. There were people who were for it, who were very strong, and people who were against it, who were very much against it. The parks board was so against it that they ripped down every hangar once it was complete. The hangars would have made incredible studios for filming and an incredible convention centre, but they were torn down.

JR: I was very sad when those buildings came down. I was one of the people who supported their protection, including the priceless Bill

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Better biking – better communities



All photos: Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival 2005.



Choppers by Pedal Play. Photo by Pamela Zak.

BY ROBERT ALSTEAD

Last December's decision by the newly elected NPA council to kill the Burrard Bridge lane reallocation trial was a major setback for Vancouver cyclists. After well over a decade of planning gridlock, it was a missed opportunity to try something simple and bold: to make the busy bridge, which is used by both cyclists and pedestrians, safer.

Bike Month, an event that celebrates all cycling-related things, from the Musical Lantern Ride on June 3 to the pancake breakfast at Granville Place on the 28th, takes place in the wake of this major disappointment.

Yet there is still good reason for optimism. The roads can be slow and tortuous, but for increasing numbers of people, the bicycle is increasingly becoming the vehicle of choice for a safe way to get around the city. You can see it in the tailbacks of bikes on cycle routes at rush hour and in the variety of both self-propelled and electric machines.

Bikes are now carrying heavier loads, and to appreciate their carrying capacity, you have to see Andy Hunter, part-time DJ and owner of BikeBox.ca, pedaling about town with his music system on trailers. Bikes are also in danger of becoming fashionable, with major manufacturers jumping on the fixed wheel – “fixies” – chopper and cruiser bandwagons.

Things can only get better at street level, as the city continues to implement bike lanes on downtown roads and upgrades more recreational routes, such as the seawall around

Stanley Park. This month, for instance, sees the official opening of bike lanes on Chilco Street (5th), Cardero Street (8th), Burrard Street (12th) and Richards Street (15th). All are welcome to enjoy a celebratory cake, T-shirts and free prizes, as well as hobnobbing with city cycling staff.

Vancouver City staff report that in the last 10 years, the network of biking trails has increased from 80km to 170km, and the number of trips made by bike has doubled in the city. There are more than 50,000 bike trips per day to city destinations, where one person makes more than one trip.

For the statistically minded, Vancouver City staff report that in the last 10 years, the network of biking trails has increased from 80 km to 170 km, and the number of trips made by bike has doubled in the city. There are more than 50,000 bike trips per day to city destinations, where one person makes more than one trip.

In January, Vancouver almost broke the record for straight days of rain, yet there were at least 200 cyclists pedaling through the wet night at the monthly Critical Mass. Last year's Critical Mass saw around 1,100 participants, and there is an expectation that this year it will be even bigger.

There's much more that could be done – many cycleways could do with the calming of traffic for cyclists to feel safer, and those bridge crossings need to be tackled – but all indica-

tions point to the fact that cycling in Vancouver is gathering momentum. That's worth celebrating.

Bikes and cars: bridging the gap

Vancouver is a city surrounded by water, and our bridges create major bottlenecks in the cycling network. “There are no quiet, second-

ary bridges,” says Richard Campbell, Bike Month organizer at Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST). So how does Campbell grade our bridges, purely from a cyclist's point of view?

Burrard bridge – After more than a decade of inaction, the Burrard bridge lane reallocation trial, which *Common Ground* supported, was originally due to start this past April. The trial, which would have given over the two outside curb lanes to self-propelled traffic, received unanimous approval from the COPE/Vision council last July. However, the newly elected NPA council killed the trial just before Christmas.

Currently, cyclists are not permitted to ride on any of the six lanes of the Burrard bridge. They are supposed to ride at a speed of at 15km/h

on a narrow (2.6 metre), raised sidewalk, shared by pedestrians, joggers, inline skaters, skateboarders, trailer-pullers and trolley-pushers, travelling in both directions.

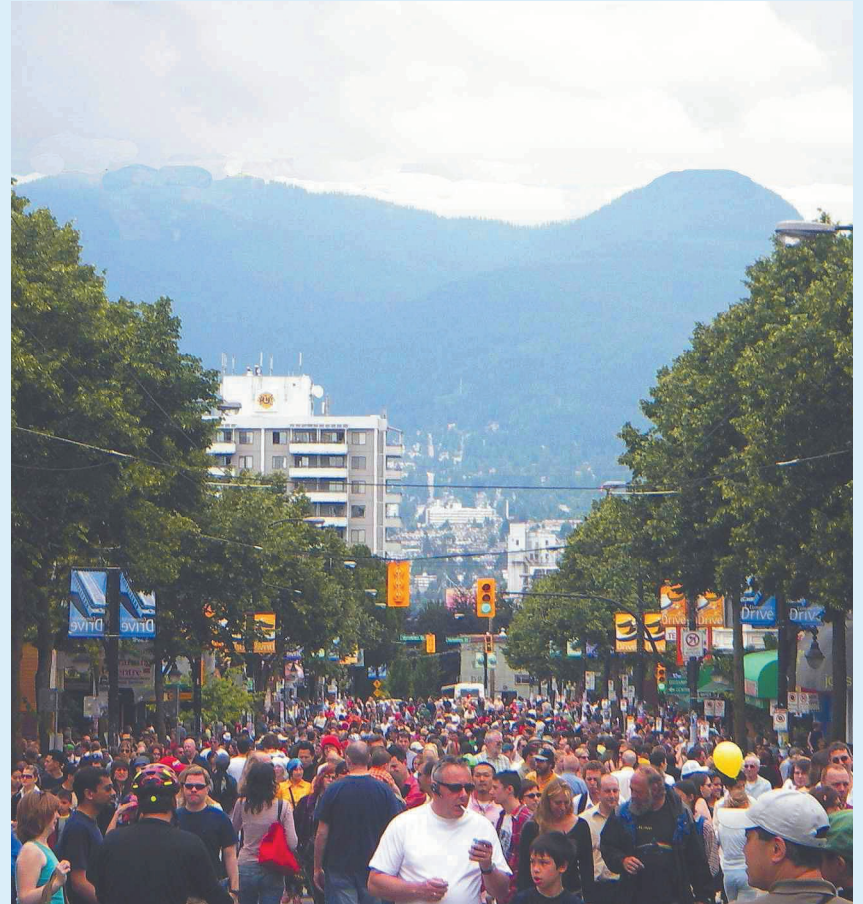
At the December council meeting, the NPA voted to draw up another plan to expand the bridge through the construction of an outrigger-style sidewalk. Now, further delays in the design and planning process mean that city staff do not expect construction to begin for another year. Heritage Vancouver, which ranks the art deco bridge at the top of its most-endangered list, must be hoping that the NPA councilors will start backpedaling when they see the construction costs. However, as the number of Vancouver cyclists and pedestrians increases each year, a solution to the bridge's shortcomings grows more pressing. Campbell's verdict: “It's good enough to be dangerous: Grade E.”

Cambie Street bridge – While the shared pedestrian-cyclist sidewalk on the east side of this major crossing is relatively wide and pleasant, Campbell would like to see better access on the west side of the bridge. He suggests eliminating one traffic lane and giving it over to cyclists. Since the west lane is being closed for the RAV construction, motorists have time to get used to the idea of one less lane. It should also encourage more people to take the RAV, rather than drive by car. Campbell's verdict: Grade B.

Second Narrows – Narrow by name and, yes, the shared sidewalk/



Chopperfest is a popular festival attraction. Photo by Gordon Price.



First-ever Car-Free festival attracted more than 25,000 people. Photo by Pamela Zak.

bikepath is as narrow as they come. Although this section of the Trans-Canada Highway is the primary route for cyclists crossing the water from Burnaby and East Vancouver to North Vancouver, it isn't possible for two cyclists to pass each other without one of them getting off her bike. The bridge has not been altered for decades and it isn't included in the provincial government's Gateway plan. The outer railing is so low that you have the disconcerting feeling that you might fall over the edge when cycling across, however, many cyclists still use the bridge extensively; they have no choice.

Campbell's verdict: "Sidewalk needs to be two or three times wider. Poor access: Grade F"

Granville Street bridge – Is it because it is eight lanes wide that cars seem to be travelling faster here than anywhere else in the city? Cyclists are not permitted on the narrow, raised sidewalks and crossing lanes of traffic when exiting the bridge is a hair-raising experience.

City staff have made various recommendations to upgrade the bridge, including widening the sidewalks for cyclists and improving access, but there is no funding to advance the ideas.

Campbell's verdict: "It's the scariest bridge. Grade F"

Lions Gate bridge – In the nineties, Campbell organized several Tame the Lions rides, where cyclists rode across the deck of the bridge *en masse* to draw attention to the dangers faced

by riders on the bridge's narrow sidewalks.

The upgrades implemented in 2000 and 2001 included widening the sidewalk from 1.2 m (4 ft.) to 2.7 m (9 ft.). Although it is still not wide enough to comfortably accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, it is a big improvement and connections to the bridge continue to improve.

Campbell's verdict: "It could be wider, but it's fairly good now... anyone would feel comfortable on it. Grade B."

RAV bridge – Controversy has hounded the \$1.9-billion-plus Canada Line linking Richmond, Vancouver and Vancouver airport (aka RAV), however, BEST did not oppose it.

On the contrary, based on the plans that Campbell has seen, he believes that the pedestrian and bike lanes under the new RAV bridge between the bottom of Cambie street in Vancouver to between Hawthorne Way and Number 4 Road in Richmond could make it the best bridge serving Vancouver cyclists. Bridge construction is due to be completed by September 2007.

Campbell's advance verdict: "It should be an A."

No.2 Road bridge in Richmond: This low-level, four-lane bridge connects Sea Island, where YVR is located, with the west side of Richmond. Campbell's verdict: "It's got nice wide sidewalks and an off-road bike lane, so you can use either: Grade A."

June is Bike Month

The second annual, Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival will be held June 18.

The first-ever Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival last year was a wild success, attracting about 25,000 people. The festival offered three stages that featured live music and performance, dancing, street hockey, massage, healing and a load of other crazy stuff. This year's date, June 18, being the soccer World Cup, the festival also offers a sports stage. Festival organizer Carmen Mills also expects the day to be a "flashpoint for awareness" about the provincial government's \$3 billion Gateway Project, which includes twinning the Port Mann Bridge. If it goes ahead, the project could flood East Vancouver with cars. "I'm expecting a mind-bomb to explode at the Commercial Drive festival," says Mills.

Freak bikes – One of the most difficult things about attracting someone to cycling is getting her to make that first bike ride. The bike builders at Pedal Play came up with the novel solution of creating art bikes that turn people's heads. Using reclaimed and recycled bikes – chopped up and welded in strange configurations – they stimulate the imagination and an anarchic sense of fun. You can't miss the tall bikes – two frames welded on top of each other – at Critical Mass.

Take them for a spin at the Van East Chopper Festival, which runs alongside the Car-Free Commercial Drive Festival.

Critical Mass – With its slogan of "We're not blocking traffic! We are traffic!", Critical Mass takes place on the last Friday of every month.

Cyclists and other self-propelled people gather at 5:30 pm outside the Vancouver Art Gallery and ride through the city together.

June usually sees the biggest mass of the year, the grand finale of Bike Month. Last year, more than 1,100 cyclists enjoyed the ride that crossed three city bridges. BEST described it as "a party on wheels." The event, which has been going strong in Vancouver for many years, has spawned numerous other rides, including the Wholesome Undie, the underwear ride that helped send the Molson Indie packing, Midnight Mass Rides (second and fourth Thursday of each month at 11:45 pm at Grandview Park) and the fabulous World Naked Bike Ride (www.worldnakedbikeride.org), which takes place on June 10.

For a schedule of Bike Month events, visit www.best.bc.ca/. Robert Alstead is currently making a cycling documentary entitled **You Never Bike Alone** (www.youneverbikealone.com/.)



Communication

TWENTY SOMETHING • ISHI DINIM

The predicament of Israel/Palestine, whatever you want to call it, looms huge and nebulous in my mind. I came here thinking that I could figure things out. That if I asked enough questions to a wide enough variety of people, I would come to an understanding of this mess. People here tell me about the untelevised versions of history and how it affects them personally. On my trip, I've met a Saudi Sunni in Paris, an Indian Hindu in London, a Druze Shi'a in Golan, an Irish Jew in Tel Aviv and a Lebanese Christian in Tiberias. The list goes on. A mixing of ideas, cultures and faiths increasing my awareness of the situation.

Before I left, I was really anxious and fearful about coming to such a conflicted corner of our world. I know that my outsider's perspective is skewed, but being concerned for my life seemed obvious listening to the news every day. From what I've learned, so far, the news has little to do with day-to-day life here. Yes, people are murdering each other in horrific ways, but sketchy driving appears to be a more significant danger than any other threat.

I asked myself what an outsider reading the news about our country would think? Kidnappings, murder, rape, theft, drugs, political scandal, deaths on our roads, toxic waste – we might appear pretty scary as well. I don't go around Vancouver gritting my teeth fixated on impending catastrophe. No one can live like that.

I could try and elaborate on the countless misdeeds that various religious and racial groups have perpetrated on one another in the Middle East over the last few millennia, however that account would be too lengthy and could only serve to legitimize more violence. I've heard enough horror stories to rationalize continued fighting for another 3,000 years. The eye for an eye mentality here leaves gaping wounds to fester in the oppressive heat. Even with all the bad blood between groups here, I see a tenuous coexistence that could easily change into a more open one. No matter how foul life gets, it just kind of goes on. We only have one planet to share.

I live in Canada, a country with its own painful history. When I think about our country's terrible colonial-

ist ways, I don't dwell in guilt about how that has benefited my family. Should I be ashamed of being born on Native land? It isn't perfect or ideal, but here we are; we all live here now. Time has mended some of the hurt. Other more grievous injuries will take much longer to heal.

When there is a fight or trespass in my immediate family the ache can linger from minutes to years. In the desert of miscommunication, we're parched for clarity and reconciliation. We didn't remember events the same way; we were misunderstood, or even worse, uttered regrettable words. I know from my own experience and that of friends how hard it can be to work things out between the closest of family members. Extending forgiveness can be extremely difficult to our own blood, let alone to strangers with a different skin colour, beliefs, culture and possibly a vile history against "our" people.

I am a self-described humanist. I want peace, reparations and equality. To achieve those ends, we need some hope that other folks want the same things as well: decent shelter, nourishing food and safety for their community. The enormity of the conflict here, and in other parts of the world, appears staggering at times. How will there ever be peace unless we can actually speak with one another? People need to act like family and we all know how hard that can be.

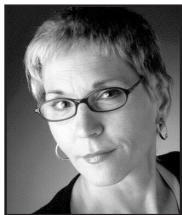
ps: I'm half-drunk right now. My stepbrother Eli and I went out to a bar with some strangers in Haifa tonight. We struggled between language barriers in a smoky pub with loud music; a good time was had. Upon leaving, I had a gut feeling that it wasn't safe to drive and that I should walk. The taxi on the way here almost killed us. I looked up at the full moon, breathed in the cool night air and decided to walk back. Our group of young lushes talked loudly, trying to figure out the next course of action.

Then, out of nowhere, an orange flew out of the air from the darkness and struck the ground beside us. It splattered on some people. Disoriented, we laughed it off and tried to find a coherent direction. Our boisterous voices ricocheted off the depressing apartments in the industrial port neighbourhood. Then, "smash," a bottle was hurled within inches of me from high above. I looked down at my feet. The large shards of glass could have caused me serious damage. I quickly changed my mind and got in the nearest car.

Ishi graduated from the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 2001, with a BFA major in photography. He makes films, collects cacti and ponders many things. Currently, he is trying to figure out what to do with the rest of his life.

contactishi@yahoo.ca

Waiting to hear echoes back...



On track zodiac

JUNE 2006 • ILONA HEDI GRANIK



ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Circumstances that develop in your personal life create issues around family and have a tone of immediacy. Pets and/or children demand your attention and have you considering accountability and respect. Do what it takes to stay centred while stretching your limits.



TAURUS (Apr 20 – May 21)

The pleasures of living and a taste for the arts whet your appetite. Flights of fancy bedazzle your senses. The ruler of your sun sign lights up the night with possibility. You can follow new enterprises that bring you emotional and personal abundance.



GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 20)

This birthday month, you might find yourself questioning your communication skills. Mental clarity is essential and the response you receive from others will prove that rule. Education and personal development may fascinate and attract you now.



CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

You could set standards for yourself and carve out your personal commandments. There is much relevance in both what you say and how you say it. The quality and nature of your actions will set the tone until mid-month. Utilize this time to make your mark, and feel the impact of your integrity.



LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

Your circumstances feel intensely private and you may wonder if you have been singled out to suffer. The daily routine of obligations and meeting deadlines could be gruelling. These are crucial times for you to advance in leadership. Responsibility always brings great wisdom as its consort.



VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sep 22)

A sense of accomplishment may seem more important to you than celebrations or holidays. The part of you that enjoys structure and routine now orchestrates your plans. You know you will reap the rewards of your efforts,

but you have much to do now and you do it willingly.



LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

You can enjoy playfulness with your partner, family and friends. Creative juices flow in the workplace, making your daily routine more interesting. If you have crafted your choices toward freedom, you will now enjoy the benefits. Great timing is in your favour.



SCORPIO (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You could be more sensitive to noise and disruptions these days. While you may have a thirst for seclusion, the opportunity doesn't present itself often enough. Spiritual awareness will guide you to find solace, no matter where you are. Short trips could suffice until the journey of your dreams falls into place.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 22 – Dec 21)

A mission statement is something that defines your purpose; it should inspire and be easily understood. It seems you are creating just that as you bring much clarity and direction into your life. Self-assurance is acquired as you get clearer about your goal setting and plans.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 – Jan 19)

During this time you feel much enthusiasm, and work will be inviting and varied. That which you undertake has a larger degree of effectiveness. Your calm and centred approach will allow you mastery of a greater number of creative and competitive endeavours. You may desire to revel in your accomplishments and brilliant ideas.



AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Self-promotion and the likelihood of finding others that fit your agenda are good. Your idealism could be sparked by current transits in the celestial sky. You may want to go beyond restrictions – both those set by others and ones that are self-imposed. A rebellious streak runs high.



PISCES (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Seeking out unique and unusual people is the norm for you, but you will see some unexpected themes develop in the next months. Your relationships will have a tinge of creative magic and undergo many changes. Personal growth is inevitable as you discover more about living with a fearless and adventurous attitude.

Ilona Hedi Granik is a clairvoyant consultant and author with 31 years of experience in astrology, multi-media art and healing. iamilona@gmail.com www.heartlightcentre.com



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Critics warm to climate crisis documentary



It's a different Al Gore you'll see in *An Inconvenient Truth*.

FILMS WORTH WATCHING • ROBERT ALSTEAD

When Al Gore ran for US president, in that infamous election of 2000, he was constantly ridiculed for his wooden public performances. Along comes a film starring the Gore man, giving a slide show, and surprisingly, it is receiving warm praise from mainstream critics in the US.

An Inconvenient Truth (June 9, Tinseltown) is about a subject close to Gore's heart: global warming. Davis Guggenheim's documentary, which received a standing ovation

Along comes a film starring the Gore man, giving a slide show, and surprisingly, it is receiving warm praise...

when it debuted at the Sundance Film Festival in January, follows Al Gore as he goes on tour with his message that immediate action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to tackle what are solvable problems, before it is too late. "If you look at the 10 hottest years ever measured, they've all occurred in the last 14 years," says Gore, using a computer-generated map to highlight the impact of rising sea levels. Gore estimates that we have about 10 years to change our ways before we are past the point of no return.

The message is clearly heartfelt and offers many personal insights into the man most of us never really knew, including how the near-fatal accident of his young son in 1989 inspired him to take a leading role in highlighting climate change.

The presentation, with its slick, state-of-the-art graphics and computer-imagery, is polished and accessible, with unsettling evidence, such as before and after images of the disappearing snows of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and proliferating hurricanes, including Katrina, to illustrate the dangers to life on Earth. Watch the trailer and find screenings worldwide on the movie's web site at

www.climatecrisis.net.

Fans of Dan Millman's hit, autobiographical novel *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* will be glad to hear that *The Peaceful Warrior*, which gets its release this month, has been faithfully transferred to the screen with lavish cinematography and special effects.

Scott Mechlowicz plays Dan, a top gymnast on the college team, who learns some difficult, soulful lessons from a guru-like sage named Socrates (Nick Nolte at his most gravely voiced), who runs a garage. Like the book, the film is an unusual mixture of story and self-improvement/spiritual guide, with its mantra of living-in-the-now.

One of the traditional events of Bike Month in June is the Bike Shorts Film Night (13th). This year's program (www.bikeshorts.blogspot.com) includes a story about the vigilante bait-bike program in Prescott, Arizona, a profile of extreme monocyclist Kris Holm and (shameless plug) my own documentary of last year's record-setting Vancouver Critical Mass 2000+5 Wheels ride.

Vidfest (www.vidfest.com) is back again this month at Emily Carr, Granville Island (14th-16th). The event is geared at New Media creators and those with an interest in digital content, with the focus very much on what is at the cutting edge. Last year, for example, you could sample mobile video content – still very much in its infancy – and this year you can borrow video iPods to view a selection of 65 pieces of media. It's a useful forum for activists, when you consider the impetus that Get Your Vote On received from its various digital campaigns.

History's Hidden Engine, directed by David Edmond Moore, pulls

together enough fascinating mathematics in the form of Fibonacci ratios, fractals and patterning in nature, mixed with observations on human behaviour and the psychology of crowds, to give *The Da Vinci Code* a run for its money. The hour-long documentary, which is free off the web (at www.socionomics.net/films/history/), focuses mainly on the sometimes-controversial work of Robert Prechter, a stock market ana-

lyst, who uses Elliott wave theory to forecast future movements in primarily the stock market, but also music, film and social trends. It's difficult to accept his dire prognostications for the future, but some of the ideas are utterly fascinating and rooted in sound scientific practice.

Robert Alstead is making a cycling documentary, *You Never Bike Alone* (www.youneverbikealone.com).

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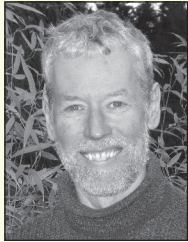
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Alberta's tar sand castles

EARTHFUTURE • GUY DAUNCEY

While riding the bus from Vancouver to Victoria a few months ago, I struck up a conversation with a young man from Alberta. Fresh in from Fort McMurray, where he worked as a pipe fitter in the tar sands, he was taking a year off to travel with his girlfriend. It didn't take much to get him talking.

He came from a troubled background with an abusive father, and had left home to live on the streets at the age of 14. He soon got into trouble with the law but luckily went free when a friend took the fall for a crime and was jailed.

My fellow passenger headed for Alberta, got a job in the Athabasca tar sands and turned his life around. With some persistence, he picked up the training he needed, and found work as a pipe fitter. Working a 12-hour day, seven days a week and living in camp, he was earning \$120,000 a year.

His girlfriend in Victoria was an exotic dancer, one of the best, I gathered. She ran long distance every morning, ate a vegan diet, kept in fabulous shape and earned \$30,000 a month, which her stockbroker brother in New York invested for her. This was a different world than the one in

which I lived.

Albertans are proud that their economy is doing so well. At the annual Calgary Stampede, there is a resilience in the air, and a feeling that Alberta is the best of all possible worlds.

And who am I to say that this is wrong, or to deprive a young man of hope and a swelling bank balance?

Because of climate change? Because of a concern that the last time the world was three degrees warmer, sea levels were 25 metres higher? Because we will count the refugees not in the millions, but in the hundreds of millions? Because conservation biologists say that at the current rate of temperature increase, we will lose 25 percent of all land-based animal and plant species to extinction by 2050?

It is hard not to sound like Jeremiah, the broken hearted Jewish prophet of doom, when writing about the impacts of climate change. They are going to hit our civilization so hard that we won't know what happened.

But why pick on Alberta? Don't we all drive cars, fly to exotic holiday destinations and enjoy the fossil-fuelled life?

It's true. But that doesn't make it right, any more than it was right for

southern plantation owners to live a glorious life thanks to slavery, before the American civil war.

It takes so much energy to extract the oil from the tar sands, that it produces three times more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil. Ironically, it is the very same Albertans who accuse the Liberals of not meeting Canada's Kyoto goals. The same goals which would have made it impossible for the federal government to touch the tar sands.

It costs \$15 per barrel to extract tar sands oil. Most of the rest is profit... Every dollar will profit principally the oil companies, which pay only a one percent royalty to the government.

It costs \$15 per barrel to extract tar sands oil. Most of the rest is profit. As the global supply gets scarcer, the sky is the limit after passing \$70 per barrel. Every dollar will profit the oil companies, which pay only a one per-

cent royalty to the government.

How do you oppose a financial force like this? Most of the oil flows south to the USA. Some will flow to China, and if the oil companies get their wish, it will also be shipped down the dangerous inside passage, where the Queen of the North recently sank, damaging the coastal fishery with oil.

It really is an environmentalist's dilemma. So many solutions that look good on paper are impossible in reality.

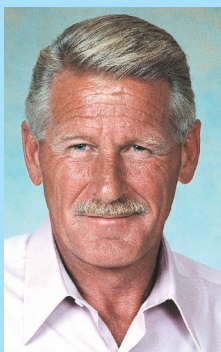
Except one. And that is to charge a 75 percent windfall tax on oil companies' profits, and use the money to propel Canada into a 100 percent post-oil economy, using renewable, sustainable energy, by 2020.

And then to gather the national strength to impose a total moratorium on all future tar sands development, unless it is to make hydrogen with complete CO2 capture and sequestration, and complete ecosystem recovery, so that it can perhaps be a blessing to Mother Earth, and not a curse.

Guy Dauncey is author of Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change and president of the BC Sustainable Energy Association

MasterPath

THE TEACHINGS OF LIGHT AND SOUND



Sri Gary Olsen,
Spiritual Leader of MasterPath

There are two approaches to God, the conventional and the universal. Conventional truth instructs us to search for God and truth outside ourselves, whereas universal truth instructs us to search for God and truth within ourselves. There is a vast difference between the two of which greater numbers are growing increasingly aware.

— Sri Gary Olsen

CONVENTIONAL APPROACH

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Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, (Sanctuary Room), 14724 First Avenue N.E., Shoreline, WA

6:00 - 7:30 pm Video Presentation of Sri Gary Olsen
7:30 - 7:45 pm Break
7:45 - 8:45 pm Introductory Talk

Sunday, June 25th — 1:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Vancouver, BC

The Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites, (Barclay/Gilford Rooms), 1763 Comox Street, Vancouver, BC

1:00 - 2:30 pm Video Presentation of Sri Gary Olsen
2:30 - 2:45 pm Break
2:45 - 3:45 pm Introductory Talk

To receive an introductory profile and audio tape (at no charge) please write to: Attn: Intro, MasterPath, P.O. Box 9035, Temecula, CA 92589-9035 USA www.masterpath.org

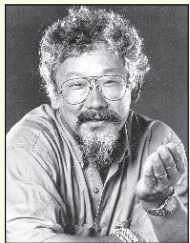
Clapp continued from p.19

Reid mural that was painted on the back of Hangar 6. There's a great picture of that in your film.

AC: The hangars were built in the shape of Native longhouses. That image fit perfectly. At night, we just put up a crane and projected the image on the wall and filled it in. But it fit perfectly, like it was made for it. It was quite incredible. No doubt, it was one of the most beautiful murals that happened.

JR: The metaphor of the longhouse: I saw those hangars as town-hall meeting places, for people to get together and sort out the issues. That's where our democracy exists.

AC: I agree. I'm a firm believer that what was interesting to people was that, in putting a conference like that together, here was an opportunity for the first time, probably, in their lifetimes to do something that would aid the UN. I think that's what the majority was feeling. We put some 10,000 volunteers into that project. School kids loved it and came down and worked. So I think that was the big motivation behind why people felt it was good for them to be part of that.



Lack of action frustrates Canadians

SCIENCE MATTERS • DAVID SUZUKI

The longer I spend on my book tour, the more I'm convinced that Canadians are really starting to get angry about environmental issues.

They aren't only upset because there are so many issues in the news right now, but because it doesn't seem as if anyone's doing anything about them.

The problems just keep coming up: polar bears drowning due to melting

I hate to say it, but we got ourselves into this mess. If Canadians really want action on the environment, we have to demand it from our leaders. And if our leaders fail, we have to throw the bums out.

ice, bird species disappearing because their habitat is destroyed, persistent pollutants accumulating in the food chain and the list goes on. But where are the solutions?

We have concerned citizens, who want to do their part to help, but they are becoming increasingly frustrated by what they see as a lack of action on the part of their leaders. Meanwhile, leaders are responding with – a lack of action.

Case in point: the recent federal budget. Here was an opportunity for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to lay the groundwork for how his government could rescue Canada's floundering environmental record.

It was a chance, by doing something bold and ambitious, to put to rest concerns that he couldn't care less about the environment. One of Harper's heroes, former prime minister Brian Mulroney, did just that with the Green Plan that helped make him Canada's "greenest" prime minister.

Yet Harper did nothing. The environment is barely touched on in the 600-plus-page budget document. And climate change, perhaps the most pressing environmental issue facing the world today, one that is expected to have profound repercussions for our economy and quality of life, doesn't even rate a mention.

This, in spite of the fact that Harper has been dismantling pretty much every single piece of the previous gov-

ernment's climate change plan.

The Liberals took eight years after signing Kyoto to come up with a plan, which is why Canada's emissions are so high today. But at least we finally had a plan. Now Canada has nothing. Instead, we have vague promises about a "made-in-Canada" solution, a meaningless phrase if there ever was one.

The previous plan, of course, was made in Canada too. Harper is simply playing politics of the disingenuous kind, the kind he always said the Liberals played. Now he's proving himself to be a master.

This kind of partisan nonsense is exactly what is getting under the skin of Canadians. It simply isn't helpful. People have burning questions that demand answers: Why do cars still burn so much gasoline? Why can't I buy a house that uses less energy? Why do so many consumer goods come with such wasteful packaging? Why doesn't more electricity come from clean sources, like wind?

In other words, people want to know why it's so hard for them to make the least damaging and most socially and environmentally aware consumer choices. The answer is simple: governments aren't doing their jobs.

Instead of showing courage, they cower. Instead of being leaders, they pass the buck. And instead of acting in the best long-term interests of their constituents and their country, they pander to the lower common denominator, with a smile and a wave.

Of course, there are exceptions. Some provinces and many municipalities are truly showing environmental leadership. But it seems the farther you go up the political food chain, the weaker the political resolve. This doesn't have to be the case, but it's the hand we've dealt for ourselves.

I hate to say it, but we got ourselves into this mess. If Canadians really want action on the environment, we have to demand it from our leaders. And if our leaders fail, we have to throw the bums out.

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sisu.com for recipe ideas.', 'www.sisu.com', '1.800.663.4163'."/>



Thank you Stephen Colbert

Colbert Roasts President Bush at Gala 2006 White House Correspondents Dinner.

Stephen Colbert words and the storm of reaction both for and against have spiked the Internet on thousands of website and blogs worldwide. This spectacular and entertaining truth telling as humour can be watched by doing a GOOGLE search on the words "THANK YOU STEPHEN COLBERT" then follow down below the picture to [Google: The Actual Speech.](#) If you liked what Michael Moore did when he received his Academy Award, then you will love what Colbert did in front of Mr. And Mrs President, top military generals, dignitaries from around the world and the heads of most major media. This is a must watch video captured by

CSPAN's camera; Michael Moore had a brief comment, Colbert had 24 minutes. Watch the president smile and squirm. See it then send it to you friends. Someone has finally said what has been on so many minds in the USA, that the Emperor not only has no clothe, but very little support. Here as a few short segments from Colbert's performance:

"I stand by this man. I stand by this man because he stands for things. Not only for things, he stands on things. Things like aircraft carriers and rubble and recently flooded city squares. And that sends a strong message: that no matter what happens to America, she will always rebound -- with the most powerfully staged photo ops in the world."

"I am appalled to be surrounded by the liberal media that is destroying America, with the exception of Fox News. Fox News gives you

both sides of every story: the president's side, and the vice president's side."

"And, of course, we can't forget the man of the hour, new press secretary, Tony Snow. Secret Service name, "Snow Job." Toughest job. What a hero. Took the second toughest job in government, next to, of course, the ambassador to Iraq."

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

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century recognized the dangers that we now face. Read Nobel Laureate Konrad Lorenz's "Waning of Humaneness", C.G Jung's short masterpiece "The Undiscovered Self", "The Universe Story" by Brian Swimme & Thomas Berry, and "The Dream of the Earth" by Thomas Berry providing insight into the uni-

fying importance of another order of reality.

I believe that the time has come for all of us to examine the conclusions that our authors reached, and to come to an understanding of how we can help to effect societal change by changing our own individual outlook. (Books available on the market or at libraries.)


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EVENTS

Just Dance! 
The Power of Positive Partying

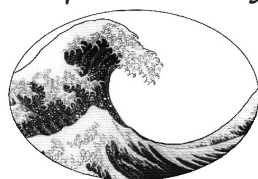
Popular **Just Dance** is a positive party event offering an upbeat selection of music from all around the world. Boasting a rich collection of toe-tapping tunes, the deejays keep the crowd hopping with music such as African, Latin, Celtic, Pop, Nu-jazz, Trance and many more.

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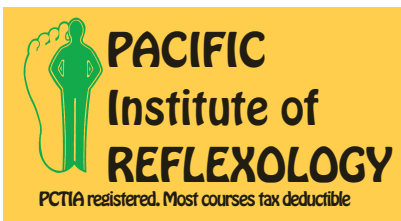
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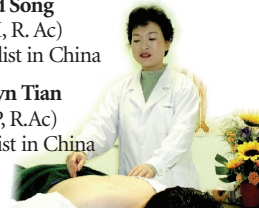
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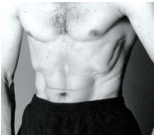
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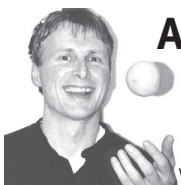
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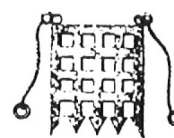
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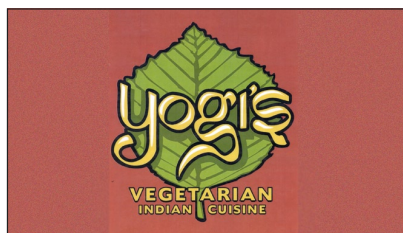
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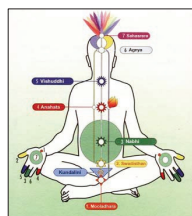
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List at: www.commonground.ca > Advertising > Datebook

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Intercultural Orchestra spiced with Tango & Andean Music with composer/performer Joseph "Pepe" Danza. Free, 7pm, Central Library, 350 W. Georgia, Peter Kaye room. www.vi-co.org/

JUN 9-11

Energy Medicine for the 21st Century

lecture workshop series at the Centre for Holistic Health Studies, Langara College. New course begins September 2006. Email imanhas@langara.bc.ca or call 604-323-5263. Information sessions: Integrative & Complementary Healthcare Career Programs & the Personal Development Integrative Energy Healing Practitioner Program. Call 604-323-5263 for dates/times. www.langara.bc.ca/cs

JUN 10

Shamanic Drumming & Dreaming Circle:

Saturday, 7pm. Insight and healing from your spirit guardians. Vancouver Multi-Cultural Centre, 1254, W. 7th. By donation. Turtle Island Healing Circles. 604.418.9636. www.drumcircles.ca

JUN 11

Sacred Sound of Crystal Singing Bowls:

Deeply relaxing, restorative and therapeutic. Experience the evocative sound. 7pm. 1718 Marine Dr., #1 West Vancouver. Ph: 604-781-5554 www.sacredsound.ca \$10.

JUN 11

Community Clinic - BodyTalkVancouver,

10am-5pm. By appointment. One hour BodyTalk sessions with certified practitioners. \$20 suggested donation. All net proceeds to charity. 778-389-7909 info@bodytalkvancouver.com

JUN 17

Wolfsong Summer Solstice - Medicine Wheel Celebration:

Saturday, 7pm. Participate singing shared Native sacred healing chants. Featuring drumming, cedar flute, didgeridoo, crystal bowls. At Vancouver Multi-Cultural Centre. By donation. Presented by Turtle Island Healing Circles. 604.418.9636. www.drumcircles.ca

JUN17

Chanting in the Round - Summer Solstice

Celebration with MantraVani Orchestra featuring Jerry DesVoignes. Trinity St. Mark's Church, Larch & 2nd. 8pm sharp. Adv. tix \$20 Banyen. www.healingvoices.net

JUN 17-18

Sound Healing Workshops:

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JUNE 21

SUMMER SOLSTICE

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JUNE 21

(FREE) MUSIC DAY

is celebrated throughout France and in a growing number of cities such as Barcelona, Berlin, London, Sydney. This year we're making a start in Vancouver. It's a fiesta not a festival - no money is involved, no stages are built, no amplifiers. Music makers at all levels and music lovers are invited to gather in public spaces around town. (Free) Music Day will focus on several waterside locations, and on Commercial Drive which will be in party mood for the World Cup with four matches that day. At 10 pm the fiesta goes indoors and becomes A Midsummer Night's Theme. Imagine

JUN 21-25

World Urban Festival 2006:

The official Arts and Culture festival of the United Nations' World Urban Forum. Great Northern Way Campus (between Main & Clark on East 2nd Ave. Free access to site. Food & Beer Garden. 11am to midnight. 604-257-0366 or www.worldurbanfestival.com Volunteer opportunities available.

JUN 23

Peaceful Warrior opens in Vancouver theatres

with Nick Nolte, Scott Mechlowicz and Amy Smart. Based on the best-selling book Way of the Peaceful Warrior. www.thepeacefulwarriormovie.com

JUN 24 & 25

Quantum Healing:

Awaken your soul and enlighten your spirit. A two-day seminar of self-awareness and energy healing. www.Quantum-Healing.name

JUN 26

Reflections on Water:

An evening of films and art exploring our relationship with water in conjunction with the World Peace Forum. Tickets & Info: www.cineworks.ca

JUN 30-JUL 4

Yoga Retreat with Shakti Mhi,

Whistler, BC. Info at Prana Yoga College, 604-682-2121, www.pranayoga.com

JUL 8-9

Second Annual Organic Islands Festival

with Get up and Grow co-host Carolyn Herriot & Victoria author and co-chair of Prevent Cancer Now, Guy Dauncey, Glendale Gardens & Woodland, 505 Quayle Road, Victoria. Adults/\$5, Children under 16 free. No debit cards. 250-656-8130, www.organicislands.ca

JUL 10

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival

presents a forum on Shakespeare and the Abuse of Power. Hosted by SFU's Paul Budra, 7pm, \$5. Under the tents in Vanier Park. 604-739-0559, www.bardonthethebeach.org See Ongoing listings for festival lineup.

JUL 28-30

Retreat with Neelam,

3 day intensive with international teacher of Non Duality. Centre for Peace, Vancouver. Discount if registered by July 14. neelam.org, 604-254-9150.

AUG 4-6

Vancouver Prophet's Conference Just for the Health of It

featuring Adam, Bruce Lipton, Judith Orloff, Rupert Sheldrake, David Carson, Rosalyn Bruyere, Nicki Scully and Ken Weintrub. Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel. Register by phone at 604-777-5981 or online at www.greatmystery.org

AUG 7-25

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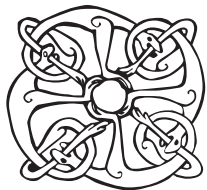


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Rolling Out The Carpet To Peace - Roll Out The Resistance To War —



The Welcoming - Canadian Welcomes US War Resisters - Sculpture by Naomi Lewis

Are Vietnam resisters key to peace?

The world's attention is centred on the Vietnam resisters reunion being planned for July 6 to 9 at the Brilliant Cultural Centre in Castlegar, BC, where the controversial bronze statue, *The Welcoming* will be unveiled at a local private gallery. Pressure from right wing groups in the US have forced municipal politicians to backtrack on accepting the war-resisters sculpture by Naomi Lewis for display in public areas.

Dubbed the Our Way Home Reunion, the weekend event will mark the contribution made to Canadian life by the approximate 100,000 or so US war resisters and their family members who came to Canada during the Vietnam war. The reunion will honour the courage of those resisting current US militarism by seeking safe haven in Canada today, during the US war in Iraq. The reunion will also honour the thousands of Canadians who helped or are helping resisters of both the Vietnam and Iraq wars resettle in this country.

The reunion includes workshops, keynote presentations, panel discussions, on-stage theatre performances, a film festival and a major peace concert.

This event provides an opportunity for those who came to Canada as war resisters during the Vietnam war to be reunited with those who assisted them in Canada.

History: The Vietnam war, and the widespread war resistance it spurred, proved a turning point in Canada's development as a nation. In an assertion of sovereignty in its post-WWII relationship with the US, Canada opened its borders and provided Americans the opportunity to oppose the Vietnam war by immigrating and starting new lives.

From 1965 to 1973, more than 50,000 draft-age American men, who refused to participate in the Vietnam war, made their way to Canada. More than half of those who came then, plus their families, remain in the country today. Many of them settled in rural areas, becoming part of the back to the land movement of the 60s and '70s. Others gravitated to Canada's

urban centres, and continue to work promoting and maintaining the kind of social justice they experienced upon arrival to this country.

At the time, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said: "Those who make the conscientious judgment that they must not participate in this war... have my complete sympathy, and indeed our political approach has been to give them access to Canada. Canada should be a refuge from militarism."



Why Castlegar for this event? The reunion will be held at the Brilliant Cultural Centre, a beautiful performance hall. The centre was founded by the Doukhobor population of the region, whose ancestors fled Russia in 1899 after destroying their weapons as a demonstration of their refusal to fight in the Tsar's army. Russian author Leo Tolstoy helped finance the Doukhobors' immigration to Canada.

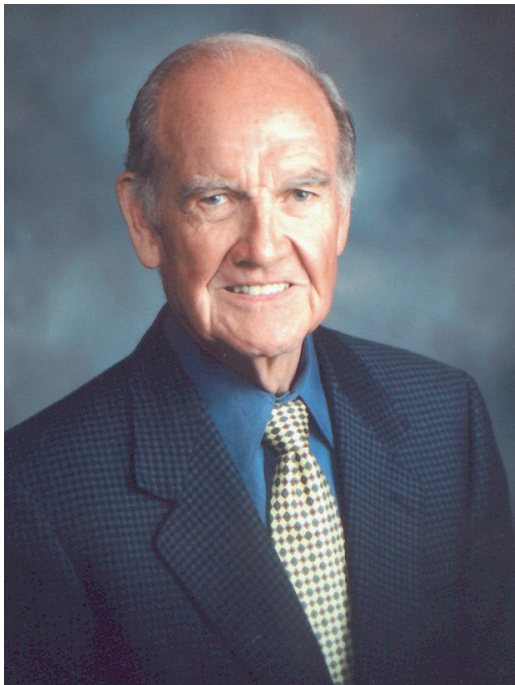
The towns of Castlegar and nearby Nelson, BC and the surrounding region of the West Kootenays were a leading terminus in what was known as the anti-war Underground Railroad. It is estimated that as many as 14,000 US war resisters came to the area at the height of the Vietnam war. New arrivals were frequently welcomed and assisted by members of two resident pacifist groups, the Doukhobors and the Quakers, the latter having earlier settled in the area after fleeing the US during the McCarthy period.

The community of Brilliant, part of Castlegar, is located at the confluence of the Kootenay and Columbia rivers, surrounded by mountains. The present-day West Kootenay Region, with an estimated population of 40,000, consists of many communities rich in arts, cultural life and an activism rooted in the contributions of the numerous US expatriates that have made the area their home.



Source: kootenayrockies.com

The peace movement throughout North-America is converging in Castlegar, British Columbia for Canada's Woodstock.



- George McGovern

High profile speakers should pack them in

Keynote speaker George McGovern, the 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, will long be remembered for his courage in speaking out against US involvement in the Vietnam war.

McGovern was first elected to Congress in 1956 and re-elected in 1958. As a congressman, he was an advocate for the American farmer and represented the US heartland with distinction. In 1960, President John F. Kennedy named him the first director of the Food for Peace Program and special assistant to the president. McGovern was then elected to the Senate in 1962 and re-elected in 1968 and 1974. As a member of the Senate committees he led the way in expanding key nutrition programs.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford named McGovern a delegate to the UN General Assembly, and, in 1978, President Jimmy Carter named him a United Nations delegate to the Special Session on Disarmament. After leaving the Senate in 1980, McGovern was a visiting professor at numerous institutions, including Columbia University, Northwestern University, Cornell University, American University and the University of Berlin. He served as president of the Middle East Policy Council from 1991 to 1998, when President Clinton appointed him ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. In 2001, he was appointed the first UN global ambassador on hunger. In this position, McGovern continues his leadership in the battle against world hunger.

Deep Impact From Renowned Speakers And Performers

"I would like to express my thanks to Canadians for opening their borders and providing sanctuary and a new home to American war resisters who, out of conscience, opposed the Vietnam War. For many of those resisters it meant the beginning of new lives."

- Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

A prolific author, McGovern has also lectured at more than 1,000 colleges and universities around the world. He has received many honorary degrees and distinguished awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the US, which was bestowed upon him by President Bill Clinton on August 9, 2000.

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson knows violence.

Special guest presenter Arun Gandhi, is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and president and co-founder, along with his wife Sunanda, of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, Tennessee.

Born in 1934 in Durban, South Africa under the discriminatory apartheid laws, he was beaten by "white" South Africans for being too black and "black" South Africans for being too white. For as time, he sought eye-for-an-eye justice, until he learned from his elders that justice does not mean revenge, it means transforming the opponent through love and suffering.

Grandfather Gandhi taught Arun to understand nonviolence through understanding violence. "If we know how much passive violence we perpetrate against one another we will understand why there is so much physical violence plaguing societies and the world," the Mahatma said. Through daily lessons, Arun learned about violence and about anger.

Arun shares these lessons all around the world. For the past five years, he has participated in the Renaissance Weekend deliberations with former president Clinton and other well-respected Rhodes scholars. This year, some of his engagements included speaking at the Chicago Children's Museum and the Women's Justice Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also delivered talks at the Young President's Organization in Mexico, the International Trade Union Leaders meeting in Milan, Italy, as well as the Peace and Justice Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Sometimes, his journeys take him even further. He has spoken in Croatia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Nicaragua, China and Japan. Also, he is a very popular speaker on college campuses.

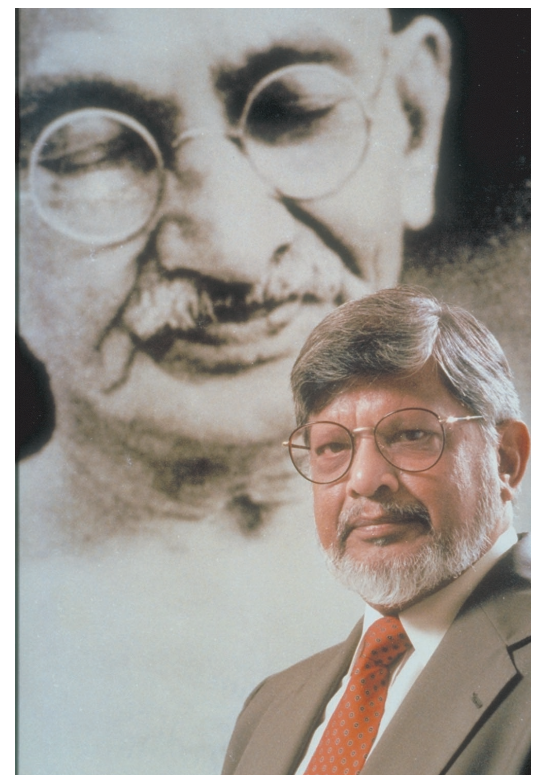
Tom Hayden a '60s icon

Tom Hayden is a '60s icon. He was a student movement, civil rights and anti-war leader, and one of the Chicago Seven. Hayden was among the most progressive state senators in California, initiating far-reaching environmental and worker rights legislation. He has been speaking up in opposition to the US occupation of Iraq and last year joined a group of US notables calling for Canadians to send a letter directly to the Canadian prime minister urging him to allow US soldiers to enter Canada during the US war in Iraq.

Napalm victim to attend

Kim Phuc, well-known napalm victim, will also be speaking. The Vietnam war gave rise to many tragedies, some more familiar than others. A photograph of a young girl running naked down a road, her skin burned by napalm, changed the way the world looked at the Vietnam war, and indeed at all wars. That photograph was seen around the world, and later won a Pulitzer Prize. The girl in that photograph is Kim Phuc.

Phan Thi Kim Phuc was born and raised in the village of Trang Bang, 30 minutes north of



- Arun Gandhi

Insert something clever that will span this much space

Saigon. During the Vietnam war, the strategic Route 1 that runs through the village became the main supply road between Saigon and Phnom Penh. On June 8, 1972, a US military advisor co-ordinated the napalm bombing of Kim's village by the South Vietnamese. The nine-year-old girl fled from a pagoda, where she and her family had been hiding. Two of her infant cousins did not survive the attack, and Kim was badly burned.

Kim was photographed running down the road, screaming from the burns to her skin. Nick Ut's photograph of Kim remains one of the most unforgettable images of the Vietnam war.

In 1986, Kim seized the opportunity to study in Cuba, but once again her studies were cut short. She was beset with physical problems, including diabetes, which blurred her vision. While in Cuba, she met a fellow Vietnamese student, who she married. Eventually, she and her husband settled in Canada with the help of some Quakers.

In 1996, in Washington, DC, Kim spoke to Vietnam war veterans about her experiences after the napalm attack on her village. She used that opportunity to share with the veterans how she finally found happiness and freedom after years of pain and suffering. She even met the pilot who co-ordinated the air strike on her village. And, she forgave him!

During her visit to Washington, she met Ron Gibbs, a Vietnam veteran who helped set up the Kim Foundation, a private charitable organization dedicated to funding the work of international organizations that provide free medical assistance to children who are victims of war and terrorism. The foundation is a way for Kim to give something back in return for all the help she received. It also provides a means for her to promote peace and forgiveness. In 1997 UNESCO named Kim a Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and since then she also received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



Vets for Peace well represented

David Cline is the US national president of Veterans for Peace. He is a disabled combat veteran who served with the 25th Infantry

Division in Vietnam during 1967. Upon his return he joined the GI anti-war movement and helped publish the underground Fatigue Press at Fort Hood, Texas.

In 1970 he joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War and has been a member ever since. He works homeless veterans, in PTSD rap groups and co-founded the Jersey City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee.



Journalist with a peaceful view



Mark Nykanen is a four-time Emmy Award-winning investigative journalist for NBC TV. Nykanen is war resister who has moved with his family to Nelson, BC and is working as a fiction writer.

Lawyer for deserters

Jeffrey House, is legal counsel representing Jeremy Hinzman, and other US military deserters who are applying for refugee status in Canada. Jeffrey House was called to the bar in Ontario and practises law in Toronto. House came to Canada as a US draft resister during the Vietnam war.



Northern Passage author

John Hagan PhD is the leading author, researcher and historian on US war resisters coming to Canada during the Vietnam war. Dr. Hagan is author of the award winning book, Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada, published by Harvard University Press. Dr. Hagan is a professor in the department of sociology at Northwestern University and continues his research at the University of Toronto. John Hagan came to Canada as a US draft resister during the Vietnam war.



Tikkune editor was with SDS

Rabbi Michael Lerner, noted writer, author and editor of the leading progressive Jewish magazine in the North America, Tikkun. Rabbi Lerner was imprisoned during the Vietnam war for his anti-war activities in Seattle, Washington. Rabbi Lerner was chair of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at the University of California at Berkeley.



GI outreach

Steve Morse is the GI rights program co-coordinator for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO) in Oakland, CA, working with the GI Rights Hotline. In the mid and late '60s, he was active with Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and did alternative service as a conscientious objector that included draft resistance work and anti-war outreach to GIs. In 1969, he joined the army to be part of GI resistance, which included in four months in Vietnam and six months of stockade confinement for distributing dissident literature. He was a sheet metal worker and shop steward and has also taught mathematics. He is active in Veterans for Peace/Veteran Speakers' Alliance.



Peace Review editor

Stephen Zunes PhD is a professor of politics and chair of the peace and justice studies program at the University of San Francisco. He is an associate editor of Peace Review and won recognition in 2002 by the Peace and Justice Studies Association as peace scholar of the year. His periodic op-ed columns appear in major daily newspapers throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. In addition, he is a frequent guest on Pacifica Radio, National Public Radio, Public Radio International, BBC radio, CBC radio and MSNBC. Prof. Zunes is the author of scores of articles for scholarly and general readership on Middle Eastern politics, US foreign policy,



international terrorism, social movements and human rights. He is the principal editor of Nonviolent Social Movements and the author of the highly acclaimed *Tinderbox: US Middle East Policy* and the *Roots of Terrorism*.

Helped stop Canadian Star Wars

Steven Staples is director of the Polaris Institute's project on the corporate-security state, and a frequent contributor to policy discussions. The Polaris Institute is a public interest research group based in Ottawa. Steven Staples organized the campaign opposing



Canada's participation in the US missile defence system. Staples will present important Canadian strategies toward shifting government policy, allowing US war resisters safe passage and permanent residency in Canada.

MP Blaikie to speak

MP Bill Blaikie was born and grew up in Transcona, Manitoba. He received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and religious studies from the University of Winnipeg in 1973 and a master of divinity degree from the Toronto School of Theology in 1977. From 1977 to 1979, he worked as director of an outreach ministry of the United Church in the North End. Mr. Blaikie was ordained to the ministry of the United Church of Canada in 1978.



Blaikie was first elected to the House of Commons in 1979 as a New Democrat and has been re-elected eight times, most recently on January 23, 2006. He is dean of the House of Commons. His interest in the anti-Vietnam war movement helped him discover the prophetic tradition within the larger biblical tradition that calls on citizens to challenge the self-righteous assumptions and hidden corporate interests of their own "side" in conflicts like the Vietnam war.

Saving the orphans

Eloise Charet and her sister ran an orphanage in Cambodia until the fall of Saigon. Journalists called Charet's orphanage "an island of

joy amidst a sea of despair." In a 1997 *Readers Digest* article entitled, *We refuse to Leave Without Our Children*, described how Eloise and her sister ignored three evacuation notices and became world famous because they



not leave without their babies. In the end they helped save 85 Khmer orphans and brought back survivors from an airplane crash in Saigon. Eloise Charet now makes her home in the West Kootenays of British Columbia.

Activist former MP

Svend Robinson served as MP representing the New Democratic Party in his Burnaby riding from 1979 to 2004. Svend was one of the youngest MPs, and served as party spokesperson on justice and foreign affairs. He was born in the US, and in the 1960s his father and mother brought their family to Canada to begin a new life, settling in British Columbia. As a social change-agent in Parliament, Svend Robinson was an unflinching, visible leader speaking out and representing progressive views on many issues including gay rights, the environment, disarmament, and the rights of the Palestinian people. Svend was the first openly gay MP in Canada, and was adopted into the Haida Nation. He was named an honorary director of both the BC and Ottawa Civil Liberties Associations and of Lawyers Against Apartheid. Svend currently works in the advocacy department of the BC Government and Service Employees Union.



Veterans of War Veterans of Peace author



Keith Mather is a member of Veterans for Peace. For 13 years he has been a member of Veterans Writers Workshop, led by internationally renowned US author Maxine Hong Kingston. Keith Mather has authored his story in a book published in April 2006, *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, edited by Maxine Hong Kingston.

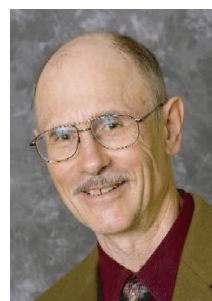
Keith Mather was drafted right out of high school in Sept 1967. He was in fact opposed to the Vietnam war when he was drafted. Keith trained as an infantryman at Fort Lewis, Washington. While in the military he became increasingly opposed to the war. Keith Mather's first AWOL was in December of 1967, second AWOL was in February 1968. He took part in the Nine for Peace demonstration in San Francisco in July of that year. For his anti-war activities Keith was put into the stockade at the Presidio of San Francisco.

While awaiting his first court martial a fellow prisoner was shot and killed by a guard while on a work detail. Keith and 26 other prisoners staged a non-violent sit down demonstration inside the stockade grounds, for which they were charged with mutiny. Prior to this second court martial, Mather along with another prisoner, escaped from the Presidio stockade, travelled to Canada arriving in Vancouver January 1, 1969. Mather lived in Canada for 12 years where he married a Canadian woman.

Upon returning to California in 1980, he lived openly for four years before being arrested and put back into the army where he spent five months at Fort Ord and Fort Riley in Kansas. Mather was discharged on May 10, 1985. He now lives and works in the San Francisco area, and travels to Canada often, maintaining his many friendships. These days you can find Mather speaking in schools as he continues to support resistance to war. Keith is featured in the newly released anti-war documentary film, *Sir! No! Sir!* Keith Mather indicates his thanks to Canada for its welcome and warmth.

Family escaped Tsar

Newly elected MP Alex Atamanenko, is the son of refugees from the Russian Revolution, who was born and raised in New Westminster, BC. He earned a bachelor's degree in recreation administration from UBC and a master's in Russian literature from the University of Toronto. He served as an interpreter during the prime minister's visit to the Soviet Union in 1989 and for the Canadian navy trip to Vladivostok in 1990.



As a devoted advocate for peace, he has been very active in the Kootenay Region United Nations Association. He lives in the West Kootenays whenever his duties as Member of Parliament and NDP agriculture critic do not require him to be in Ottawa.

Helped found SDS

While a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1959 on, **Brewster Kneen** was involved in local peace activities as well as the founding of Students for a Democratic Society. After graduation he worked for the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) as student secretary, which involved counseling conscientious objection on college campuses all over the US, as well as being involved in organizing some of the mass peace and civil rights demonstrations in Washington.

One significant event was a weekend conference in 1964 organized by Brewster and Dimitri Rousopoulos, the Montreal editor of *Our Generation Against Nuclear War* at the Nyack, NY, headquarters of the FOR. The purpose of the conference was to internationalize the peace movement, bringing Canadian and US peace activists together - and to introduce the new left leaders to the most respected old left leaders. Among the New Left leaders present was Tom Hayden.

Since then, Brewster has pursued a vocation of critical social analysis and exploration of hope as a student of theology, public affairs broadcaster, sheep farmer, co-op organizer and author of five books, including *From Land to Mouth - Understanding the Food System*, *Invisible Giant*, *Cargill and Its Transnational Strategies*, and most recently, *Farmageddon*, *Food and the Culture of Biotechnology*. Brewster is founding director of The Forum on Privatization and the Public Domain (www.forumonpublicdomain.ca). Brewster and Catheen Kneen live on an organic farm in Sorrento, BC, and continue to publish *The Ram's Horn*, a monthly newsletter of food systems analysis, now in its 26th year.

Peace concert performers

Buffy Sainte-Marie has appeared all over Europe, Canada, Australia and Asia, receiving honours, medals and awards which continue to this day. Her song *Universal Soldier* became the anthem of the peace movement during the Vietnam war and continues to be an anthem of the peace movement to this day. Her song *Until It's Time for You to Go* was recorded by Elvis and Cher. For her first album she was voted *Billboard's* best new artist. She disappeared suddenly from the mainstream US airwaves during the Lyndon Johnson years. Being blacklisted during the Vietnam war affected Eartha Kitt, Taj Mahal and a host of other outspoken performers. Buffy's name was included on White House stationery as among those whose music "deserved to be suppressed." In Indian country and abroad, however, her fame

only grew. She continued to appear at countless grassroots concerts, AIM events and other activist benefits. She made 17 albums of her music, three of her own television specials, spent five years on *Sesame Street*, scored movies, helped to found Canada's music of Aboriginal Canada Juno category, raised a son, earned a PhD in fine arts, taught digital music as adjunct professor at several colleges, and won an Academy Award for the song *Up Where We Belong*.

Holly Near immense talent

Near is a unique combination of entertainer, teacher and activist. She was a major figure speaking out in opposition to the Vietnam war and supporting the GI movement opposing the war. An immense vocal talent, Near's career as a singer has been profoundly defined by an unwillingness to separate her passion for music from her passion for human dignity. She is a skilled performer and an outspoken ambassador for peace who brings to the stage an integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery and theatricality. Near's strength and versatility as a performer has led to creative collaborations with such artists as Ronnie Gilbert, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Mercedes Sosa, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Inti-Illimani, Bonnie Raitt, Cris Williamson, and Linda Tillery. Near's portrait hangs at The Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio along with those of other social change artists including Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Pete Seeger, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte and Woody Guthrie.

Gilbert of the Weavers

Ronnie Gilbert is a singer, actor and peace activist (formerly with the Weavers). A Theatre Energy original production will be performed for this reunion event, reuniting Ronnie Gilbert and other members who together, in the 1970s, formed this professional theatre company headquartered in the West Kootenays' Slocan Valley. Theatre Energy performed professionally throughout Canada through the 1970s and early 1980s and will have a new production for this upcoming event.

The Khac Chi

Sounds of Vietnam features two premiere musicians, performing exquisite music on rare and unique instruments. These virtuoso artists offer an intriguing glimpse into the rich musical tradition of Vietnam and its 4,000-year history.

Famous for their musical skills innovation throughout Vietnam, the Khac Chi takes you on an adventure in sound. Extremely versatile, their concerts may include a combination of music. They are as equally comfortable performing solo chamber concerts, as they are on folk festival stages, or as guest soloists for symphony orchestras.

Their rare talents and superb musicianship have won them numerous awards for excellence, as well as many invitations for international appearances.

Bill King

A pianist, vocalist, composer and publisher, **Bill King's** numerous recording and production credits include 2003 and 2004 producer of the year awards at the National Jazz Awards.

King came to Canada as a US military deserter during the Vietnam war. He was born in Jeffersonville, Indiana in 1946. By the early '60s, he had won 16 first place awards in classical piano and clarinet competitions and a scholarship to the Oscar Peterson Advanced School of Contemporary Music, which he attended in 1963.

In 1966, Bill King's band, The Chateaus, had their first *Billboard* Top 50 hit with jazz pianist Bobby Timmons' gospel romp, *Moanin'*. After this success, he worked with many of the stars of the day, such as the Shangri-las, Dick and Dee Dee, Freddy Cannon, the Dovells, and Ronnie Dove. The Chateaus opened for the Beach Boys on three occasions, and worked with the Dick Clark Caravan of Stars.

In the mid-'60s, King held the position as house pianist at Louie Jordan's club at Greenwich Village in lower Manhattan. He then moved to Los Angeles, to become music director and pianist for Linda Ronstadt. A year later, he joined Janis Joplin's band in the same capacity. In 1969, King moved to Toronto and signed a recording contract with Capitol Records. Over the next couple of years he released two albums as leader of his own band - *Goodbye Superdad* and *Dixie Peach*.

King returned to Los Angeles in 1976 as music director for vocalist Martha Reeves. After accompanying her on a European tour, he joined The Pointer Sisters and spent the next year touring Japan and the US with them. Other gigs included tours with John Klemmer and with VSOP, the reconstituted Miles Davis jazz group, featuring Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Tony Williams, Freddie Hubbard and Ron Carter.

During the mid-'80s, King co-founded The Jazz Report Magazine, which was distributed worldwide. He has also been a driving force in the success of the Beaches International Jazz Festival since its inception in 1988. His duties as artistic director and emcee bring him in contact with some of the finest talent worldwide. Recently, King added artistic duties for the Toronto International Blues Festival to his portfolio.

For Radioland Enterprises, King co-produced top-selling Tyler Yarema and His Rhythm's debut CD Gotta Bran' New Suit (featuring Yarema's boogie/swing piano) and also Pat LaBarbera's Deep In a Dream, which collected the 2000 Juno for best traditional jazz recording.

Currently, King leads four highly-regarded Toronto bands:

- o The Rockit 88 Band (Maple Blues Award and Juno nominee)
- o Saturday Nite Fish Fry
- o The King Alleyne Roth Trio
- o The award winning hard bop aggregate Kollage, whose CD Fine Print has sold more than 10,000 copies in Canada

Pied Pumkin

Absolutely original, slightly organic and eternally orange, Vancouver's legendary folk trio has been creating infectious music for more than 25 years. In the mid-'70s Pied Pumkin's mixture of timeless music, fearless arrangements and irreverent humour defied categorization and made the group a West Coast favourite. Since the '70s, Pied Pumkin's many visits to the West Kootenays have made them a comfortable fixture in the lives of Kootenayites. Their combination of dulcimer, violin, guitar and flawless harmonies created a sound completely original and enduring. They self-produced two albums which sold more than 30,000 copies for their own Squash Records - one of Canada's first independent labels.

The 1998 Pied Pumkin retrospective CD, Plucking DeVine, made Jurgen Gothe's top 10-album list and was nominated as best folk/Roots Album in the Pacific Music Industry Awards. In March 2000 the Pumkin released Pied Alive, a live CD of 13 songs recorded in nine different communities during on their hugely successful 33-concert tour of Western Canada in 1999.

Hardcore founders coming

DOA is a hardcore punk band from Vancouver. Members' careers began in 1978, when

they invented the term "hardcore punk" to describe their sound. As such they are often referred to as the "legend or the founders of hardcore by their following. Singer/guitarist Joey Keithley is the only founding member still in the band.

DOA has always maintained an uncompromising populist political stance. The band is known for its outspoken political opinions and has a history of playing for many causes and benefits. Its slogan is "Talk minus action equals zero." Anti-racism, peace, anti-globalization, freedom of speech and the environment are a few of the issues the band is known to rally around.

Local talent

Yoko Cowin's recent opening for Jan Arden marked her place as one of Nelson's most celebrated singer/songwriters. Her sultry and soulful voice illuminates her new and signature pieces.

Part 3 821 words

Schedule Events Program is subject to change

THURSDAY, JULY 6
Brilliant Cultural Centre
8 am
REGISTRATION

Brilliant Cultural Centre
9 am to 4 pm
WORKSHOP

Two Roads Taken: War Resisters and Veterans Healing the Effects of War Together - Day and a half workshop for veterans, war resisters and family members/significant others - facilitated by the National Coalition Building Institute of Canada. Co-led by a Vietnam veteran and peace activist. The workshop will create understanding and build connections between groups.
Brilliant Cultural Centre

Capitol Theatre
Nelson, BC
7 pm
FILM EVENING
War Resistance in the US and Beyond (For registrants and the public)

Friday, July 7
Brilliant Cultural Centre
9 am to 12 noon

WORKSHOP (continued) Two Roads Taken: War Resisters and Veterans Healing the Effects of War - completion of NCBI facilitated event.

2 pm to 5 pm
PANEL PRESENTATION Social Activist Leaders Responding In a Time of Crisis With Tom Hayden, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Brewster Kneen and Svend Robinson. US and Canadian anti-war leaders and US war resisters will discuss their personal histories, i.e. How their lives intersected with historic events and how they responded, what they have learned from the successes and failures in the past, and their hopes of creating a more just and peaceful world in the future.

Brilliant Cultural Center
5:30 pm to 7 pm
DINNER social mixer for registered guests - catered finger foods

Brilliant Cultural Centre
8:00pm
EVENING PROGRAM Celebrating the Path Taken with host Mark Nykanen, four-time Emmy Award-winning investigative journalist and novelist, and speaker Rabbi Michael Lerner. Performers: Bill King, Pied Pumpkin, Ronnie Gilbert, Theatre Energy's Three Fingered Frank and special performance by the Doukhobor Men's Choir

SATURDAY, JULY 8

9 am to 12 noon
WORKSHOPS
Three break out groups led by major peace activists
Sharing Personal Stories (Flight, survival, assistance and lives made in Canada)
Canadian Legal and Legislative Issues for US War Resisters in Canada (Then and now)
Canadian and US Movement to Assist US War Resisters (Then and now)
Two Roads Taken: War Resisters and Veterans, Healing the Effects of War Together
Resolving Conflicts Non-violently in Today's World

Brilliant Cultural Centre
9 am to 12 noon
Hands Up! Political theatre workshop for anyone interested in getting their point across with satire, wit and play. Based on work by the world famous San Francisco Mime Troupe

Brilliant Cultural Centre
2 pm to 5 pm
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bard continued from p.18

them all and let God decide." That was a terrible abuse of power.

KS: We don't have mass murder in this play, but it's a pretty outrageous edict that any fornication outside marriage is punishable by death. The reason Isabella's brother gets caught is because his girlfriend is very obviously pregnant, and they were engaged but they had money problems and didn't manage to get married.

CG: So once again the dowry comes into play.

KS: And, of course, at the time this was going on, even though there was a law on the books, it wasn't being enforced so nobody worried about it. I think of Stephen Harper's mandatory minimum sentencing as another example of an extremity that is unnecessary. Nobody wants dangerous people running around the streets, but in the US, mandatory minimum sentences have been a disaster in many cases, and also have made an entire society based on incarcerating people. One of the big growth industries in the US is prison.

By their own admission, the Conservatives are saying they will have to build a lot more prisons. That to me is not the solution if you can't take extenuating circumstances into consideration, like a first offence, or a judge is not able to actually show mercy or compassion and understand

motivations behind behaviour. It doesn't require Draconian measures.

So, that's what's happening with Angelo. He's saying the law's the law. There's that resonance today as well with *Measure for Measure*. What is the nature of justice and how is it best observed.

What I find fascinating about Shakespeare is the absolute timelessness of this man's plays. What he wrote 400 years ago has direct application to what's happening today. In some ways that's depressing, because nothing's changed, but he puts it out there on the table and I think he makes us ask those questions. He makes us ask whether our leaders are who they really seem to be. Are they telling us the truth? He continues to ask some of those hard questions that are still relevant today. Who's abusing power now?

Kathryn Shaw has been the artistic director of Studio 58, the professional acting training program at Langara College since 1985, and has been teaching in the program since 1974. In 2005, Kathryn was elected to the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame and was the 1996 recipient of the UBCP/ACTRA Sam Payne Award.

Measure for Measure previews June 14-16 and opens June 17, running through to September 23 at Bard on the Beach at Vanier Park. Phone 604-739-0559 or visit www.bardonthebeach.org for scheduled times.

Strange Fruit continued from p.17

Springsteen's Grammy-winning 2005 song *Devils & Dust* is an almost Sufi-like take on how you can become the very thing you hate. No doubt the lyrical subtlety was lost on some listeners, just as the bitter condemnation in Springsteen's *Born in the USA* was once misinterpreted by Chrysler Corporation's former CEO Lee Iacocca, who unsuccessfully sought to use the song for car commercials.

The most abrasive antiwar entry from an old rocker is surely Neil Young's latest album *Living With War*. Written and recorded in the space of six days, and sounding a lot like his old output with his band Crazy Horse, the album has some of the strangled outrage that propelled *Ohio*, his Vietnam-era lament about the Kent State killings. In *Let's Impeach the President*, he asks, "What if al-Qaeda blew up the levees? Would New Orleans

Ohio, Peter Gabriel's *Biko*, Dylan's *Ballad of a Thin Man*, Buffy Sainte-Marie's *Universal Soldier*, Lennon's *Give Peace a Chance*, *Imagine* and *Happy Christmas (War Is Over)*. But where's this generation's *Strange Fruit*? One contender comes from Spearhead's Michael Franti, who has successfully merged the themes of war, poverty, surveillance and racism into *Oh My God*, a song that is disturbing, funny and mournful in equal parts. It has sweet Temptations-style backing vocals, but the message is as painful as a snake's venom.

The song rhymes off a rap sheet of racial grievances, starting with the US legal system: "Anonymous notes left in the pockets and coats/Of judges and juries from 'Frisco to Jersey." A technocratic lynching results from a politician's involvement: "A lethal injection, the night before the election/'Cause he got donations from the prison guard's union." Franti lifts

The protest song alerts people that there is something in the air that they are all tuned into – Dylan's "something is happening here," which Mr. Jones couldn't quite figure out. While protest songs don't necessarily translate into action... they still communicate one message loud and clear to angry youth everywhere: you are not alone in dreaming of a better world.

have been safer that way/Sheltered by our government's protection?"

The titles of the songs – *Shock and Awe*, *The Restless Consumer* and *Looking for a Leader* – say it all, exploring a republic gone wrong in a world sent sideways. Young plays the patriot card, undercutting critics from the right who might trot out the tired, but always useful, epithet of "anti-Americanism," by closing the album with a 100-voice choir singing *America the Beautiful*.

The protest song, if nothing else, alerts people that there is something in the air that they are all tuned into – Dylan's "something is happening here," which Mr. Jones couldn't quite figure out. While protest songs don't necessarily translate into action – their effect is rarely so direct – they still communicate one message loud and clear to angry youth everywhere: you are not alone in dreaming of a better world.

So are singer/songwriters merely annotating historical trends, or contributing to them? I believe there has always been traffic between hearts, the arts and the exercise of power. In the mid-eighties, for example, Artists United Against Apartheid helped shame other performers into refusing to play South Africa's Sun City, and brought a media focus to the issue. Music can help change the world.

Consider the truly great songs of protest from the past, like Neil Young's

the rap genre from its pimps-and-ho's ghetto to the doorstep of the power-brokers, with the chorus repeating, "Oh my God, they've got us thinkin' genocide." Franti savages those who are "... still believing the system is workin' while half of my people are still out of workin'."

"... you can make a life longer, but you can't save it / you can make a clone and then you try to enslave it? / stealin' DNA samples from the unborn / and then you comin' after us / 'cause we sampled a James Brown horn?"

The lyrics, delivered in an angry growl, diss the cultural gatekeepers for "tellin' the youth don't be so violent," while they "drop bombs on every single continent." If *Strange Fruit* can be said to have a sequel, this may be it.

What Kafka said of the novel – "an axe to break the frozen sea inside us" – also holds for the musical anthems. It's an amazing thing that the heart's call, expressed in the vibratory energy of the voice, can be captured with the wizardry of electronics and then thrown out into the world, making other souls resonate in response. If singer/songwriters are North American culture's canaries in the coalmine, it's time once again to wake up to their calls, before it's too late.

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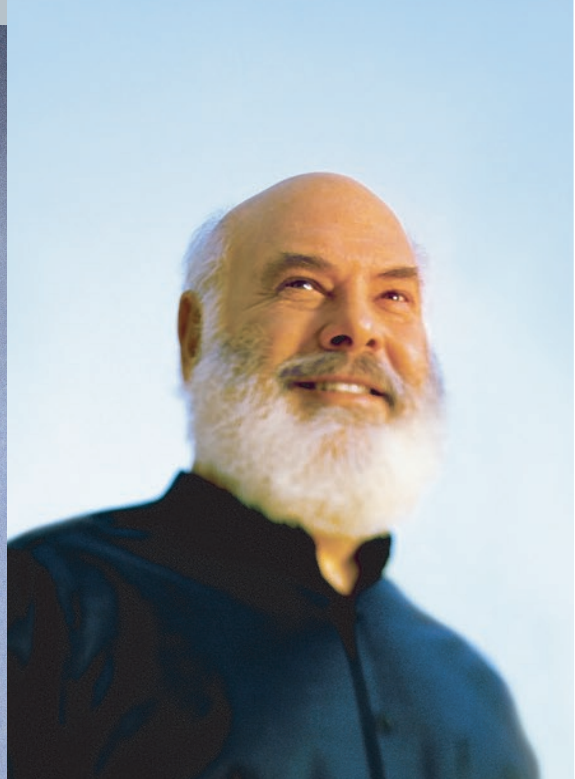
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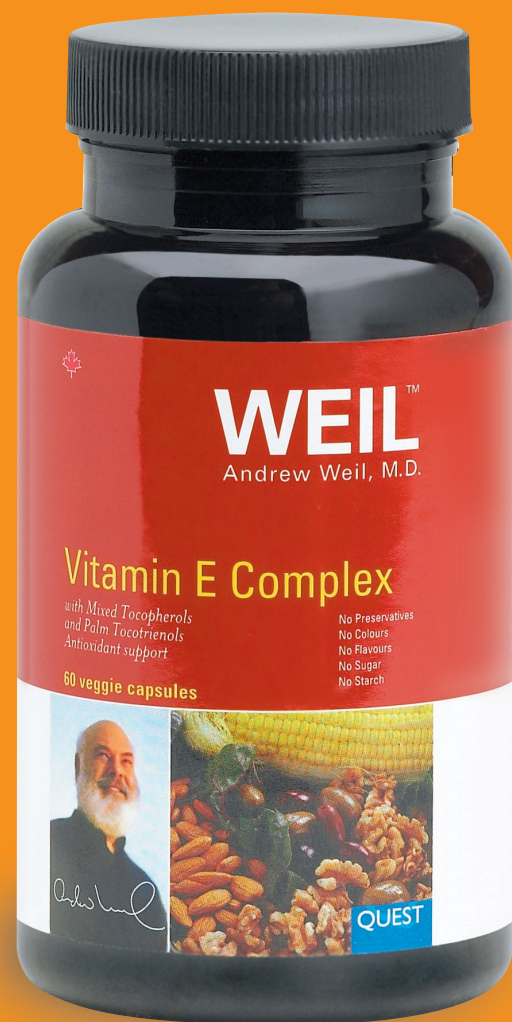
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